

AP Exclusive: DOJ would take halted executions to high court

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General William Barr told The Associated Press on Thursday that he would take the Trump administration's bid to restart federal executions after a 16-year hiatus to the Supreme Court if necessary.

Barr's comments came hours after a district court judge temporarily blocked the administration's plans to start executions next month. The administration is appealing the decision, and Barr said he would take the case to the high court if Thursday's ruling stands. He said the five inmates set to be executed are a small portion of 62 death row inmates.

"There are people who would say these kinds of delays are not fair to the victims, so we can move forward with our first group," Barr said aboard a government plane to Montana, after he met with local and federal law enforcement officials in Cleveland.

The attorney general unexpectedly announced in July that the government



In this Oct. 11, 2019 file photo, a view of the E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse in Washington.

Associated Press

would resume executions next month, ending an informal moratorium on federal capital punishment as the issue receded from the public domain.

Some of the chosen in-

mates challenged the new procedures in court, arguing that the government was circumventing proper methods in order to wrongly execute inmates quickly. U.S. District Judge Tanya

S. Chutkan put the cases on ice while the challenge plays out. She said in a Wednesday evening ruling that the public is not served by "short-circuiting" legitimate judicial process.

"It is greatly served by attempting to ensure that the most serious punishment is imposed lawfully," she wrote.

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Trump pays respects to Army officers killed in Afghanistan

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**

Associated Press

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. (AP) — President Donald Trump paid respects Thursday to a pair of Army officers who were killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan earlier this week.

The president and first lady Melania Trump, along with several senior aides, travelled to Delaware to meet with the families of Chief Warrant Officer 2 David C. Knadle, 33, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kirk T. Fuchigami Jr., 25, as they received the fallen soldiers' remains.

Trump and the first lady were among a group of dignitaries, including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley and National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien, who attended the roughly 12-minute ceremony and watched as six white-gloved members of the Army's Old Guard carefully handled the flag-draped transfer cases holding the soldiers.

Trump and Milley saluted the soldiers, while the first lady and O'Brien stood with



President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump watch as a U.S. Army carry team moves a transfer case containing the remains of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kirk T. Fuchigami Jr. of Keaau, Hawaii, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Associated Press

their hands over their hearts for the dignified transfer of remains.

Trump has said the responsibility of receiving the remains of fallen U.S. soldiers is "the toughest thing I have

to do" as president.

As the final day of public hearings in the House impeachment inquiry wound down, Trump left the White House for the short flight to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, where the remains of service members killed abroad are returned to U.S. soil.

Knadle, of Tarrant, Texas, and Fuchigami Jr., of Keaau, Hawaii, died Wednesday when their helicopter crashed as they provided security for troops on the ground in Logar Province in eastern Afghanistan.

Both were assigned to Fort Hood, Texas.

Wednesday's crash brought this year's U.S. death toll in Afghanistan to 19, excluding three non-combat deaths.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for shooting down the helicopter, but the U.S. military has dismissed that as a false claim. The crash remains under investigation.

Trump broke off peace talks with the Taliban in September following a bombing in Kabul that killed 12 people, including an American soldier.

The White House said Trump and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani spoke on

the phone Thursday, and both "agreed a reduction in violence is necessary to move the peace process forward" and for all-Afghan negotiations regarding a political settlement to be successful.

White House spokesman Judd Deere said Trump also thanked Ghani for his support in seeking the release of two Western hostages the Taliban freed this week after holding them in captivity for more than three years. Last month, as Trump sought to justify his unpopular decision to remove a small contingent of U.S. service members from northeastern Syria, he began to describe his experiences at Dover and argue for removing the U.S. from "endless wars" in the Middle East, which he campaigned on in the 2016 presidential race.

The president has described the sight of cavernous aircraft pulling up on the base, doors opening, uniformed service members carrying flag-draped "transfer cases" and once- stoic parents breaking down.

"Sometimes they'll run to the coffin. They'll break through military barriers," Trump said at an unrelated

White House event on Oct. 9. "They'll run to the coffin and jump on top of the coffin. Crying mothers and wives. Crying desperately." "And this is on these endless wars that just never stop," he said. "And there's a time and there's a place, but it's time to stop."

Trump was also joined Thursday by Deputy Defense Secretary David Norquist, Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy and Army Sgt. Major Michael Grinston. Actor Jon Voight, who was awarded the prestigious National Medal of Arts at a White House ceremony earlier Thursday, also attended the "solemn movement" ceremony at the invitation of Trump.

Voight said he didn't meet the families but watched the "moving" ceremony. The 1979 Oscar winner said he thought "it must be some comfort that their children are cherished by the country."

"There was no intention of meeting the families or any of that," Voight said. "I just wanted to pay my respects, say a little prayer." Thursday's trip was Trump's second to the Delaware military base this year, and his third visit there overall as president. □

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Continued from Front

Her ruling temporarily postpones four of the five scheduled executions beginning next month; the fifth had already been halted. It's possible the government could win an appeal in time to begin executions Dec. 9, but that would be an unusually fast turnaround.

"This decision prevents the government from evading accountability and making an end-run around the courts by attempting to execute prisoners under a protocol that has never been authorized by Congress," said the inmates' attorney, Shawn Nolan. "The court has made clear that no execution should go forward while there are still so many unanswered questions about the government's newly announced execution method."

Most Democrats oppose the death penalty. Re-



Attorney General William Barr speaks with an Associated Press reporter onboard an aircraft en route to Cleveland, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, during a two-day trip to Ohio and Montana.

Associated Press

publican President Donald Trump has spoken often about capital punishment

and his belief that executions serve as an effective deterrent and an appropriate punishment for some crimes, including mass shootings and the killings of police officers.

Still, executions on the federal level have been rare. The government has put to death only three defendants since restoring the federal death penalty in 1988, most recently in 2003, when Louis Jones was executed for the 1995 kidnapping, rape and murder of a young female soldier.

In 2014, following a botched state execution in Oklahoma, President Barack Obama directed the Justice Department to conduct a broad review of capital punishment and issues surrounding lethal injection drugs.

Barr said in July that the Obama-era review had been completed, clearing the way for executions to resume. □

Obama warns against 'purity tests' in Democratic primary

By BRIAN SLODYSKO

Associated Press

LOS ALTOS HILLS, Calif. (AP)

— Former President Barack Obama warned Democrats on Thursday against adopting "purity tests" in the presidential primary and said any adversity the candidates face in the contest will make whoever emerges an even stronger nominee.

Obama spoke to about 100 donors during a question-and-answer session with Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez in Los Altos Hills, California. The event came a day after the fifth Democratic presidential primary in Atlanta and as the 17-person field continues to expand, with the expected entry of former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg in the coming days.

Until recently, Obama largely refrained from opining publicly on the Democratic contest, and his move from the sidelines comes at a moment of deep uncertainty for the party. Many are jittery about the uneven



In this Oct. 29, 2019, file photo, former President Barack Obama speaks during the Obama Foundation Summit at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

candidacy of his former Vice President Joe Biden, questioning whether Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren can defeat President Donald Trump next year, and skeptical of whether Pete Buttigieg, the South Bend, Indiana, mayor who is surging in Iowa, can appeal to black voters

that are a crucial Democratic voting bloc.

"We will not win just by increasing the turnout of the people who already agree with us completely on everything," Obama said. "Which is why I am always suspicious of purity tests during elections. Because, you know what, the coun-

try is complicated."

Obama urged Democrats to "chill out," saying, "The truth of the matter is that every candidate on that stage believes we should provide" better health care and education and address climate change.

He also noted the historic diversity of the Democratic field, which now includes five women, three black candidates, a Latino man and a gay man. He compared that to his own election as the nation's first black president.

"We have a number of women candidates and

we have one gay candidate. And those candidates are going to have barriers if they win the nomination, or they win the general election — just like I did," Obama told donors. "You can overcome that resistance if the way you are framing these issues and messages indicate, 'Look, I'm part of an American tradition ... of opening up opportunity.'"

In recent weeks Obama has sought to play both referee and uplifting elder statesman. He's cautioned "woke" activists against embracing "cancel culture" and urged the party to not adopt positions that could cost them in the general election.

"That's not bringing about change," he said during a recent Obama Foundation event. "If all you are doing is casting stones, you're probably not going to get that far."

At the same time, he has offered reassurances that a spirited primary will make the eventual nominee a stronger candidate.

It comes amid a fierce intraparty debate that has divided centrists and an ascendant progressive wing, which has advocated for policies like free college tuition and "Medicare for All" that would dramatically reshape the role of government in peoples' lives. □

Associated Press

House urges court to lift hold on subpoena for Trump records

By MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)

— House Democrats and Manhattan's top prosecutor told the Supreme Court Thursday that President Donald Trump's arguments to shield his tax returns and financial records are weak, and not deserving of the justices' intervention.

The Democrats said they should be allowed to enforce their demands for Trump's financial records from his accounting firm immediately.

The House's plea to allow

enforcement of its subpoena comes a few days after Chief Justice John Roberts imposed an indefinite delay to give the court time to figure out how to handle the case. Trump made an emergency appeal to the court to block the subpoena from being enforced in the meantime after an appeals court in Washington, DC, ruled against him.

A similar fight also has reached the high court from New York, where the Manhattan district attorney wants Trump's tax returns for a criminal investigation. □

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ONLINE****www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com****EPA prosecutions of polluters approach quarter-century lows**

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Criminal prosecution and convictions of polluters have fallen to quarter-century lows under the Trump administration's Environmental Protection Agency, deepening three years of overall enforcement declines, according to Justice Department statistics.

And while the administration says it's focusing on quality over quantity in pollution cases, using its enforcement resources to go after the biggest and worst offenders, an Associated Press analysis found little sign of that so far in court cases closed in 2019.

The criminal pollution cases initiated, and won this year, under the Trump administration, appear to be smaller one-offs, such as an Alaska fishing captain who let a reality TV show crew film his cheering crew as it dumped waste overboard into an Alaskan strait in 2017.

EPA spokeswoman Melissa Sullivan said Thursday it was "not unusual" for complex criminal cases to take years to move from initial investigations to filing of charges. Sullivan said that some statistics, such as a one-year rise from 107 to 133 in total number of defendants charged in criminal cases, were up in 2019.

"We have devoted substantial resources to larger, more complex investigations with more benefit to the environment and public health," Justice Department spokesman Wyn Horbuckle said in a statement. "Such cases have resulted in billions of dollars in criminal penalties."

But an environmental watchdog group and a former regional EPA criminal enforcement official said



This Sept. 21, 2017 file photo shows the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Building in Washington.

three years of falling enforcement numbers show the Trump administration gutting criminal investigations and prosecutions at the agency.

"These numbers in the last three years, what they show is the dismantling, intelligently, of this program," said Michael Hubbard, a former special agent in charge for the EPA's criminal investigation division in New England.

It's the Trump administration "getting away with increasing the risk to health and the environment at the benefit of corporate officials who want to make more money," Hubbard said.

"By any recognized metric, the odds of corporate polluters facing criminal consequences have reached a modern low," stated Tim Whitehouse, a former EPA enforcement attorney and executive director of the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility watchdog and advocacy group. "Every year under Trump has seen a further

enforcement decline."

The Trump EPA says its emphasis is on working with polluters to bring them into compliance with public health and environmental protections, but says it prosecutes when necessary. Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse compiled the records from Justice Department and EPA cases for fiscal year 2019, which ended in September.

The EPA sent 190 cases to the Justice Department for possible criminal prosecution, the figures show. That's up from 166 last year, the second year of the Trump administration, but otherwise the lowest since George H.W. Bush's first term in 1990.

The Justice Department filed 75 EPA prosecutions in fiscal year 2019. That's the lowest number since 1994, and down from a high of 198 in Bill Clinton's second term.

Justice Department investigators won 60 federal convictions on pollution cases referred by the EPA, the

engines that fell short of U.S. clean-air requirements, the EPA's summary of 2019 convictions and resolutions show. EPA started that investigation in 2015 after a whistleblower tip.

The EPA said some other enforcement categories showed gains for the year. That included 170 possible criminal cases opened by the EPA, up from 129 last year.

Criminal fines increased from \$28 million in 2018 to \$45 million, the agency said.

Conservation groups and former EPA officials, including Hubbard, say Trump administration cuts in enforcement agents at EPA are one of the biggest reasons for the criminal enforcement declines.

"It's always resource-driven," Hubbard said.

Even if the EPA is opting to focus its enforcement on the biggest cases it can manage, for enforcement officials, "if I got nobody in the store, I can't sell any product," Hubbard said.

The EPA had 145 investigative agents on staff as of February, down from 175 in 2012, Whitehouse, the PEER chief, said. □

Associated Press

fewest since 1995, according to the Syracuse University figures.

Convictions and settlements and sentences against big corporate offenders for fiscal year 2019 largely involved cases originated in the Obama administration but finished by the Trump administration, as with a \$1.95 million penalty against Hyundai Construction Equipment Americas Inc. for importing diesel

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Woman fights charges after stepkids see her topless at home

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A Utah woman charged with a crime after her stepchildren saw her topless in her own home is fighting the case that could force her to register as a sex offender, pointing to a court ruling that overturned a topless ban in Colorado and helped fuel a movement. Tilli Buchanan's attorneys argue that Utah's law on lewdness involving a child is unfair because it treats men and women differently for baring their chests. They are asking a judge to overturn her misdemeanor charges and declare that part of the law unconstitutional.

Prosecutors counter that nudity is commonly understood to include women's breasts in American society and that courts have upheld laws based on morality.

"It was in the privacy of my own home," Buchanan said after a court hearing Tuesday where a judge said she plans to rule in the coming months. "My husband was right next to me in the same exact manner that I was, and he's not being prosecuted."

Buchanan, 27, said she and her husband had taken off their shirts to keep their clothes from getting dusty while they hung drywall in their garage in a Salt Lake



Tilli Buchanan smiles as she leaves Judge Kara Pettit's Third District Courtroom, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019, in Salt Lake City. Her attorneys Leah Farrell, with the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah, and Randy Richards argued on her behalf that Utah's lewdness statute is unconstitutional because it discriminates against women.

City suburb in late 2017 or early 2018.

When her husband's three children, ages 9 through 13, walked in, she "explained she considers herself a feminist and wanted to make a point that everybody should be fine with walking around their house or elsewhere with skin showing," her lawyers said in court documents.

Buchanan was charged with three counts of misdemeanor lewdness involving a child in February. It came after child welfare officials began an investigation involving the kids that wasn't

related to Buchanan.

The children's mother reported the topless incident because she was "alarmed," authorities said. Police say Buchanan removed her shirt and bra in front of the children while "under the influence of alcohol" and said that if a man could take off his shirt, a woman should be able to as well.

Her husband was not charged. If convicted, Buchanan could face jail time or fines and may be required to register as a sex offender for 10 years.

"It has incredibly serious

consequences," said Leah Farrell, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah who argued Buchanan's case.

While people might have different feelings about male and female bodies, the use of the criminal justice system to enforce them isn't appropriate, Farrell said.

A global movement advocating for the rights of women to go topless, called the Free the Nipple campaign, has seen mixed success fighting similar ordinances in other parts of the country.

Supporters celebrated in February when the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a ruling blocking a Fort Collins, Colorado, law against women going topless in public.

The justices sided with activists who argued that the ban treated women and men differently.

The court has jurisdiction over federal cases from several states, including Utah, but authorities have said the ruling doesn't immediately invalidate other local laws.

One of the Fort Collins plaintiffs, Brit Hoagland, said the Utah case is more unjust because Buchanan was inside her own home.

"Women should not be seen as inherently sexual, let alone criminal, for doing something men do casually all the time," said Hoagland, who identifies as nonbinary, which means their gender identity is not strictly male or female.

Topless bans have been upheld elsewhere. The New Hampshire Supreme Court in February affirmed the conviction of three members of the Free the Nipple campaign who were arrested for going topless on a beach in 2016.

A public indecency law in Missouri also was upheld in 2017, and a court allowed a San Francisco public nudity ban to remain on the books in 2013. □

Pennsylvanians to get more time on sex abuse charges, suits

By MARK SCOLFORO

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — The state where a grand jury's groundbreaking report set off a new wave of reckoning over sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church passed legislation Thursday giving victims more time to sue and police more time to file charges.

The Pennsylvania House sent the statute-of-limitations bill to Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf with a 182-5 vote, along with a measure that invalidates secrecy agreements in lawsuit settlements that prevent child

sexual abuse victims from talking to investigators.

"This has been a long and trying process, and we are finally at the finish line," the statute-of-limitations bill's prime champion, Berks County Democratic Rep. Mark Rozzi, told fellow lawmakers. "Justice is coming."

Wolf's office said he intends to sign the bills and a third measure that increases and clarifies penalties for mandated reporters who do not report suspected child abuse.

Spokesman J.J. Abbott said Wolf "thanks the brave

victims that made these changes possible by sharing their stories and fighting for justice."

A fourth piece of legislation has also passed both chambers, a proposed state constitutional amendment to give now-adult victims of child sexual abuse a two-year window to sue abusers and institutions. The amendment must pass the House and Senate again in the 2021-22 session before going to voters in an election.

Victims of past abuse should be able to hold accountable institutions that



In this Jan. 15, 2019, file photo an American flag flies at the Pennsylvania Capitol building in Harrisburg, Pa.

Associated Press

covered up or enabled crimes against children, said Rep. Tom Murt, R-Montgomery.

"It's time to open the window," Murt said during floor

debate.

"We need to open the window and allow the light of truth to shine in this dark place. Anything less is justice denied." □



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Former Baltimore mayor enters guilty pleas in fraud case

By BRIAN WITTE and REGINA GARCIA CANO

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — The disgraced former mayor of Baltimore pleaded guilty Thursday to federal conspiracy and tax evasion charges in a case involving sales of her self-published children's books and exposing once again the depths of corruption in the city. Catherine Pugh pleaded guilty in federal court in Baltimore to conspiracy to commit wire fraud, conspiracy to defraud the government and two counts of tax evasion. She pleaded not guilty to seven counts of wire fraud that were included in the indictment unsealed a day earlier.

The case centers on sales of her self-published "Healthy Holly" books to nonprofits and foundations to promote her political career and fund her run for mayor. Pugh, a longtime Democratic politician who was elected mayor in 2016, resigned under pressure in May.

Pugh faces up to 35 years in prison. U.S. Attorney Robert Hur said she could be sentenced to about five years based on sentencing guidelines, but a judge would make the final determination. Her sentencing is set for Feb. 27.

Pugh only spoke to answer questions from the judge. She mostly rested her face on her hands, occasionally spoke to her attorney and swiveled on her chair.

"I do," she said after U.S. District Judge Deborah Chasanow asked her whether she agreed that several facts presented by prosecutors, including how books were shuffled from a city warehouse, were true. Wearing a pinstriped dark coat and scarf, she silently walked out of the court-



Former Baltimore mayor Catherine Pugh, center, leaves U.S. District Court in Baltimore on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019.

house flanked by attorneys after the hearing and left in a waiting SUV. Defense attorney Steven Silverman declined to comment.

Hur said Pugh's admissions of guilt "demonstrated that she betrayed the trust placed on her."

Prosecutors explained how Pugh, helped by her aide Gary Brown Jr., double-sold the illustrated paperbacks and failed to deliver them to institutions they were purchased for, including the Baltimore City Public Schools. They said Pugh used the proceeds to fund straw donations to her mayoral campaign and to renovate a house.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Martin Clarke detailed how the University of Maryland Medical System — one of the state's largest employers — came to be Pugh's biggest book customer. The system paid Pugh a total of

\$500,000 for 100,000 copies that were meant to be distributed to schoolchildren, but about 60,000 of those books were sent to a city warehouse and a Pugh office from where thousands were later removed to give to other customers.

Pugh never delivered the other 40,000 books that the health system purchased for city schools. The system wrote the first check for the books in 2011 and the last one last year.

Pugh, 69, had previously served in the state Senate, where she sat on a committee that funded the medical system. She also sat on the hospital network's board from 2001 until the scandal erupted in March. The system described some of the purchases as "grants" in federal filings. Pugh returned the last \$100,000 payment and described the deal as a "regrettable

mistake" after the scheme was uncovered.

Brown and another city employee, Roslyn Wedington, have pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud, conspiracy to defraud the government and filing a false tax return. Their sentencing hearing hasn't been scheduled.

Pugh became Baltimore's second mayor in less than a decade to step down because of scandal. Former Mayor Sheila Dixon left office in 2010 as part of a plea deal for misappropriating about \$500 in gift cards meant for needy families.

The charges against Pugh came as the city has struggled with violent crime and other cases of public corruption, as well as a major police scandal. This is the fifth consecutive year the city has had more than 300 homicides.

Corruption in Baltimore has regularly fed headlines.

State Sen. Nathaniel Oaks, a Democrat, was sentenced in 2018 to three and a half years in prison in a bribery case. This year, former Police Commissioner Darryl De Sousa pleaded guilty to three counts of failing to file federal tax returns. Baltimore also is still grappling with another police scandal: A task force created to get illegal guns off the streets spent years ripping off drug dealers and stealing money from citizens.

Meanwhile, the police department remains under a federal consent decree requiring sweeping reforms. It was authorized in January after the U.S. Justice Department released a scathing report detailing longstanding patterns of racial profiling and excessive force within Baltimore's police force.

Federal authorities began investigating city police following the April 2015 death of a young black man, Freddie Gray, while in the custody of officers. In April, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan signed emergency legislation to overhaul the University of Maryland Medical System's board of directors, after Pugh's shadowy book deals became the public face of a wider self-dealing scandal in the system.

"The people of Baltimore, and all Marylanders, should be able to have confidence in the honesty and character of the people they elect to office," Hogan, a Republican, said Wednesday. "It is completely unacceptable anytime a public official violates the public trust. That's why I pledged to put an end to business as usual, clean up the mess, and restore integrity in government." □

UK Labour party vows radical changes if it wins Dec. 12 vote

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's main opposition Labour Party promised Thursday to radically expand public spending and state ownership if it wins the Dec. 12 election, trying to close a persistent opinion-poll gap with the governing Conservatives.

The party said a Labour government would nationalize Britain's railways, energy utilities and postal system, cap rents, hike the minimum wage and abolish university tuition fees.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn called the platform a "manifesto of hope." Critics called it a pipe dream.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson pushed for Britain to hold the December election, which is taking place more than two years early, in hopes of winning a majority and breaking Britain's political impasse over Brexit. All 650 seats in the House of Commons are up for grabs. Labour's ambitious manifesto is an attempt to shift the focus of the campaign from Britain's stalled de-



President of the European Council Donald Tusk leaves after his speech at the European Peoples Party (EPP) congress in Zagreb, Croatia, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019.

parture from the European Union and onto the country's fraying social fabric, stressed after a decade of austerity measures under Conservative-led governments.

The platform unveiled Thursday at a rally in Birmingham, central England, revives policies of nationalization and central government control that have

been jettisoned by both Conservative and Labour governments since the 1980s.

"Yes, it is a radical manifesto," Corbyn said. "But when you travel around this country and you talk to people, radical answers are what's necessary."

Labour promised to build 150,000 new public housing units a year and to create hundreds of thousands of "green jobs" to combat climate change by expanding renewable energy and cutting carbon emissions.

The party also says it will part-privatize telecoms provider BT and bring free broadband internet access to every home and business in Britain.

The costly new policies would be funded by raising taxes on the wealthy, including a higher corporation tax, a windfall tax on oil and gas companies and an income tax increase for those earning more than 80,000 pounds (\$104,000) a year. "None of this has any economic credibility whatever," said Johnson, who labeled Labour's policies "ruinous."

The Conservatives, however, also are promising more money for infrastructure, health care and public services if they win, a major change of policy after years of backing public spending cuts.

Paul Johnson, who heads the Institute for Fiscal Stud-

ies, an economic think tank, called the scale of Labour's financial promises "colossal" and said the idea it could be paid for without raising taxes on most workers was "simply not credible."

Business groups reacted more cautiously to Labour's plans.

British Chambers of Commerce chief Adam Marshall said businesses would "welcome proposals to reform skills funding, upgrade our failing infrastructure and review business rates." "But command and control isn't the way," he said. "Excessive intervention in business governance and sweeping tax rises would suppress innovation and smother growth."

Edwin Morgan, director of policy at the Institute of Directors, warned that "Labour's measures on business risk being too much stick and not enough carrot."

Corbyn, who spent decades on Labour's left-wing fringe before winning the party leadership in 2015 thanks to a surge in grassroots support, said his policies would be popular with the public. He compared himself to U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose "New Deal" helped tackle the Great Depression, saying that Roosevelt "had to take on the rich and powerful in America to do it." □



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Key European group mulls status of Hungary's ruling party

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC

Associated Press

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) —

The new president of the European People's Party on Thursday denounced Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's "illiberal" policies and said the status of Orban's populist party within the influential group will be decided early next year.

Donald Tusk said a decision on whether Orban's Fidesz party will be allowed to stay in the group will be made in January after EPP finishes an internal investigation. Tusk, the outgoing Europe-

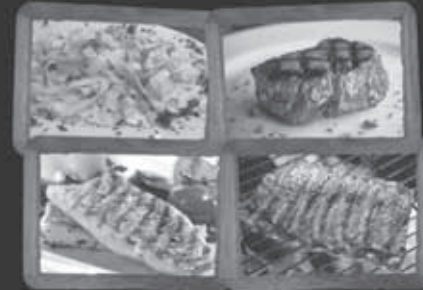
an Council president, was elected the new president of the pan-European party Wednesday at a two-day congress in Zagreb, Croatia.

The center-right EPP is the dominant group at the European Parliament, an umbrella party for many national parties. Fidesz's membership was temporarily suspended in March before the EU elections in May due to alleged violations of the rule of law. Orban is widely seen as an autocrat who has rolled back democracy in his country.

"This is not the first time when I expressed my opinion about illiberal democracy and this is, if I understand, the new main idea of Viktor Orban," Tusk said. "I think we have to be very determined in fighting against this kind of idea."

During his opening statement at the EPP congress on Wednesday, Tusk launched a scathing attack against "political populists, manipulators and autocrats" within the group's ranks.

However, not everyone in the EPP agrees with Tusk's position. □

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French courts face touchy test: Is helping migrants a crime?

By NICOLAS VAUX-MONTAGNY
CLAIRE PARKER

Associated Press

LYON, France (AP) — A French court is to rule Thursday on whether to convict a mountain guide of helping migrants enter the country illegally — the latest case that is testing France's "principle of fraternity" allowing humanitarian aid for irregular migrants.

The cases have centered on the Alps, where migrants traverse snowy passes between Italy and France, many ill-equipped for the cold. Each year some die of hypothermia.

Pierre Mumber, a 55-year-old ski instructor and member of migrant rights organization Tous Migrants, came across several West African migrants in January 2018 as he hiked through the Montgenèvre pass in search of people needing help.

Mumber argues he was giving



This Jan. 4, 2017 photo shows a crowd supporting Cedric Herrou, a French activist farmer accused of helping African migrants to cross the border from Italy, in Nice, southern France.

Associated Press

ing legal humanitarian assistance. Tous Migrants co-president Michel Rousseau said Mumber was bringing warm clothes and drinks to migrants when he was arrested. Mumber's lawyer, Philippe Chaudon, has argued that his client helped them on French soil.

A court in the city of Gap convicted Mumber earlier

this year for "aiding the irregular entry of foreigners," giving him a three-month suspended sentence. It pointed to the fact that his cell phone signals bounced off the Italian side as evidence that Mumber had illegally helped them cross the border.

His lawyer says the prosecutor had insufficient evi-

dence and appealed, and the regional appeals court in Grenoble is handing down its verdict Thursday. Lawyer Chaudon argues that in the Alps, cell phone signals and ski slopes often straddle both sides of the border.

"My client is reproached for going back and forth between the two countries, but he is a ski instructor and the slopes of Montgenèvre cross into Italy," Chaudon told The Associated Press.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 migrants tried to illegally cross the border between France and Italy during a three-month period that winter, fueling both humanitarian efforts to help them and calls by nationalist politicians for a crackdown. It's part of a Europe-wide migrant challenge, since both countries are part of the European Union's border-free travel zone.

The case is one of several

that has tested how the French judiciary handles citizens providing aid to migrants since France's Constitutional Council upheld the "principle of fraternity" in 2018.

That ruling came after the high-profile case of farmer Cedric Herrou, who housed some 200 migrants in the Alps' Roya valley and helped them travel within France. He was convicted in 2017 of helping migrants illegally cross the border.

EU rules criminalize those who help migrants without the proper documentation from crossing into or transit through member states, as well as those who house migrants for financial gain. Some countries have more stringent restrictions; Denmark, for instance, has prosecuted hundreds of its citizens for giving migrants food or a lift. Germany and Switzerland have also seen similar court cases. □

Nothing to C: Climate activists prank Merkel's CDU party

By FRANK JORDANS
DAVID RISING

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Environmental activists brazenly marched off with a giant letter "C" from the entrance of Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union party headquarters in broad daylight Thursday in a stunt to protest its climate change policies.

Members of Greenpeace waltzed into the CDU building in downtown Berlin in the morning and snatched the 2-meter-tall (6.5-foot-tall) letter from inside the



Greenpeace activists remove the 'C' of the short form 'CDU' for 'Christian Democratic Union' to create the slogan 'DU sollst das Klima schützen' ('YOU should protect the climate') during a protest at German Chancellor Angela Merkel's CDU party headquarters in Berlin, Germany, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019.

glass. To the remaining "DU" — German for "you"

— they added a banner reading, "should protect the climate." Later, after someone removed the giant "DU" letters, the activists rappelled down the front of the building and pasted a new part on their banner to spell it out again for morning commuters to see.

The group says it removed the "C" — thus taking the "Christian" out of the "Christian Democratic Union" party name — because they maintain Merkel's party hasn't been upholding the Christian imperative to protect creation.

While Merkel's party recently agreed a package of measures to reduce carbon emissions, environmentalists say they won't be enough to effectively stop global warming.

In preparation for the caper, the group also brought their own giant "C's" with them and established a Twitter account, "Das C" — or "The C."

In a video tweeted by the group, one member is seen trundling off down the road in front of the CDU headquarters with a giant "C" strapped to his back. □

Israel's Netanyahu charged in corruption cases

By JOSEF FEDERMAN
ARON HELLER

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's attorney general on Thursday formally charged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a series of corruption cases, throwing the country's paralyzed political system into further disarray and threatening the long-time leader's grip on power.

Capping a three-year investigation, Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit charged Netanyahu with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three different scandals. It is the first time a sitting Israeli prime minister has been charged with a crime.

According to the indictment, Netanyahu accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars of champagne and cigars from billionaire friends, offered to trade favors with a newspaper publisher and used his influence to help a wealthy telecom magnate in exchange for favorable coverage on a popular news site.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks during an extended faction meeting of the right-wing bloc members at the Knesset, in Jerusalem, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019.

The indictment does not require Netanyahu to resign, but it significantly weakens him at a time when Israel's political system appears to be limping toward a third election in under a year. Mandelblit was set to issue a statement later Thursday, as was Netanyahu, who has

called the allegations part of a witch hunt, lashing out against the media, police, prosecutors and the justice system.

The most serious charges were connected to so-called "Case 4000," in which Netanyahu is accused of passing regulations that gave his friend, telecom

magnate Shaul Elovitch, benefits worth over \$250 million to his company Bezeq. In return, Bezeq's news site, Walla, published favorable articles about Netanyahu and his family. The relationship, it said, was "based on a mutual understanding that each of them had significant interests that the other side had the ability to advance." It also accused Netanyahu of concealing the relationship by providing "partial and misleading information" about his connections with Elovitch.

Two close aides to Netanyahu turned state's witness and testified against him in the case.

The indictment also said that Netanyahu's gifts of champagne from billionaires Arnon Milchan and James Packer "turned into a sort of supply line." It estimated the value of the gifts at nearly \$200,000.

The indictment said Netanyahu assisted the Israeli Milchan, a Hollywood mogul, in extending his U.S. visa. It was not immediately clear what, if anything, Packer, who is Australian, received in return.

The decision comes at a tumultuous time for the country. After an inconclusive election in September, both Netanyahu and his chief

rival, Benny Gantz, have failed to form a majority coalition in parliament. It is the first time in the nation's history that that has happened.

The country now enters an unprecedented 21-day period in which any member of parliament can try to rally a 61-member majority to become prime minister. If that fails, new elections would be triggered.

Netanyahu is desperate to remain in office to fight the charges. Under Israeli law, public officials are required to resign if charged with a crime. But that law does not apply to the prime minister, who can use his office as a bully pulpit against prosecutors and push parliament to grant him immunity from prosecution.

In the first sign of rebellion, Netanyahu's top Likud rival on Thursday called for a leadership primary should the country, as expected, go to new elections.

"I think I will be able to form a government, and I think I will be able to unite the country and the nation," Saar said at the Jerusalem Post Diplomatic Conference in Jerusalem. He did not address the looming criminal charges. The only plausible way out of a third election — and the prolonged political paralysis that has gripped Israel for the past year — would be a unity government.

In September's election, Blue and White edged Likud by one seat in the previous election. Together, the two parties could control a parliamentary majority and avoid elections.

Both Netanyahu and Gantz expressed an openness to a unity government. But during weeks of talks, they could not agree on the terms of a power-sharing agreement, including who would serve first as prime minister.

If elections are held, opinion polls are already predicting a very similar deadlock, signaling additional months of horse-trading and uncertainty. □

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N. Korea says Kim turned down Moon invitation to visit South

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Blaming its rival for a recent chill in relations, North Korea on Thursday said its leader turned down an invitation by South Korean President Moon Jae-in to participate in a regional summit next week.

The announcement continued North Korea's current hardball approach with Washington and Seoul following months of unprecedented summitry as they near an end-of-year deadline issued by the North's leader, Kim Jong Un, for the U.S. to salvage fragile nuclear talks.

North Korean officials in recent weeks have insisted that Kim has no interest in another summit with U.S. President Donald Trump unless the North gets something substantial in return. They have also called for the United States to end "hostile" policies against the North, apparently referring to its enforcement of sanctions and pressure, and permanently halt joint military exercises with the South for any progress in negotiations.

The statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency said there is no reason for Kim to visit the South under "beclouded air" and accused Moon's government of fail-



In this April 27, 2018, file photo, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, left, and South Korean President Moon Jae-in cross the military demarcation line to the South side at the border village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone.

ing to uphold agreements reached between the leaders in three summits last year. KCNA said Moon's office sent a letter on Nov. 5 inviting Kim to attend a summit Moon is hosting in the southern city of Busan for Southeast Asian leaders on Monday and Tuesday. The agency said South

Korea asked the North to send a special envoy to the meetings if Kim couldn't come.

The statement repeated demands that South Korea break away from the U.S., accusing the Moon government of harming inter-Korean cooperation with its continued dependence

on Washington. "If (South Korean officials) think they can easily turn around the present serious situation with just a piece of letter, they would be seriously mistaken," the statement said. "We will never follow without reason the impure attempt of (the South Korean) side to give impression

that dialogue is going on between the top leaders ... although no settlement of the fundamental issues between (the Koreans) ... is being made."

Moon's office expressed regret, saying Kim is missing out on a rare opportunity to meet other Asian leaders. It said the Korean leaders should meet often to discuss peace and cooperation, but did not directly address the North's criticism of Moon's policies. Working-level talks last month in Sweden broke down over what the North Koreans described as the Americans' "old stance and attitude."

North Korea has suspended virtually all cooperation with South Korea amid the standstill in negotiations with the United States, while demanding that Seoul defy U.S.-led international sanctions and restart joint economic projects that would aid the North's broken economy.

In their third summit last September in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, Kim and Moon vowed to restart visits by South Korean tourist groups to the North's Diamond Mountain resort and normalize operations at a joint factory park in the North's border town of Kaesong when possible, voicing optimism that sanctions could be lifted to allow such projects. □

Associated Press

Ex-President Mahinda Rajapaksa sworn in Sri Lanka's new PM

By KRISHAN FRANCIS

Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

— Sri Lanka's newly elected President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Thursday sworn in as prime minister his brother and the former president, Mahinda Rajapaksa, capping a victorious return to power of the brothers credited with a military victory over Tamil rebels but also implicated in human rights violations.

Ranil Wickremesinghe stepped down as prime minister earlier Thursday to clear the way for the president to form his government. Wickremesinghe said in a statement that he was quitting despite having

a parliamentary majority, respecting the mandate Gotabaya Rajapaksa received in last Saturday's presidential election. Mahinda Rajapaksa is widely applauded with ending a 26-year separatist civil war with ethnic Tamil rebels during his presidency from 2005 to 2015. His brother the current president then served as a powerful secretary to the Ministry of Defense.

In a boost to his grip on power, a court Thursday discharged President Rajapaksa in a corruption case, citing constitutional provisions for presidential immunity. The decision was made on the advice of the attorney general,



Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, right, accepts official documents from his brother Mahinda Rajapaksa after appointing him as prime minister at the presidential secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019.

said spokeswoman Nishara Jayaratne.

Associated Press

Gotabaya Rajapaksa had been charged with mis-

appropriating \$191,000 in state funds to build a monument for his parents.

He was also implicated in several investigations including the abduction and killing of critical journalists during the civil war. Jayaratne said that according to the constitution, no legal case, civil or criminal, can be filed against the president.

A U.S. court last month dismissed a case filed by the daughter of a leading journalist killed in 2009 that Gotabaya Rajapaksa was behind her father's death. The court said Gotabaya Rajapaksa was entitled to common law foreign official immunity. □

Colombia protesters hope to channel wave of discontent

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO**

CÉSAR GARCÍA

Associated Press

BOGOTÁ, Colombia (AP)

— Colombians angry with conservative President Iván Duque hoped to channel Latin America's wave of discontent as they took to the streets Thursday with a long list of grievances, from persistent economic inequality to violence against social activists.

Thousands of students, teachers and labor union organizers gathered for what could be one of the nation's biggest demonstrations in recent years, testing an unpopular government as unrest grips the region.

Analysts were skeptical, however, that the event would generate any prolonged unrest like that seen recently in Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador, noting a lack of unifying factors in a divided country that is one of the region's stronger economic performers.

"We're not in a pre-insurrectional climate," said Yann Basset, a professor at Bogotá's Rosario University. "I'm not sure there's a general rejection of the political system."

The Duque government is nevertheless on edge, deploying 170,000 officers to enforce security while closing border crossings and deporting 24 Venezuelans



In this Nov. 7, 2019 file photo, Colombia's President Iván Duque waves to police cadets, accompanied by his interim Defense Minister and Armed Forces Commander Gen. Luis Fernando Navarro, left, during a graduation ceremony for the cadets in Bogotá, Colombia.

Associated Press

accused of entering the country to instigate unrest. "They are preparing as if for a war," said Ariel Ávila, deputy director of the Peace and Reconciliation Foundation. "But it's very vague what they've shared about any potential disturbances."

Duque, who has a lackluster 26% percent approval rating, has gone on a charm offensive seeking to connect with citizens and counter erroneous claims on social media that he has proposed to raise the retirement age and reduce wages for young workers.

"I'm not here to talk about a

garden of roses," he said in a radio interview. "I'm talking about a country that is recovering, an economy that is improving and is today one of the best in Latin America."

Still, many Colombians say they have plenty of reasons to be angry.

Despite the previous administration's 2016 peace accord with leftist rebels, much of Colombia is still engulfed in violence as illegal armed groups compete for territory where the state has yet to establish a presence. Dozens of indigenous and social leaders have been killed in crimes that

remain largely unsolved. The Duque administration has made a small dent in reducing coca crops, but fields of the plant used to make cocaine still cover wide swaths of the country. Meanwhile, Duque's government has faced a series of embarrassing setbacks. Defense Minister Guillermo Botero resigned in early November following revelations that at least eight minors had been killed in a bombing that targeted a small band of dissidents. Duque's key ally, former President Álvaro Uribe, is under investigation for alleged witness tampering.

And Duque himself drew criticism after holding up photos at the U.N. General Assembly that he said were proof that the socialist government in neighboring Venezuela harbors leftist Colombian rebels – only to find out later that at least one of the images was taken in Colombia.

Colombia's economy has been growing at a faster rate this year, but the nation still has one of the highest levels of inequality in South America. Nearly 11% of Colombians are out of work – a figure that jumps to 17.5% for young adults.

On Thursday, many of Bogotá's perpetually congested streets were empty as protesters gathered and began marching. Some carried signs painting Duque as a pig. Others danced in bright colored skirts and straw hats, giving the protest the feeling of a festive parade.

"We are standing up to protest and tell all humanity that we need to demand change," said Aida Prado, 26, an actress waving a white flag.

Comments from Cabinet ministers on potential financial reforms have raised concerns among union members about pension and work rule overhauls – though Duque's administration insists such proposals do not exist. □

Cuba accuses US diplomat of supporting illegal actions

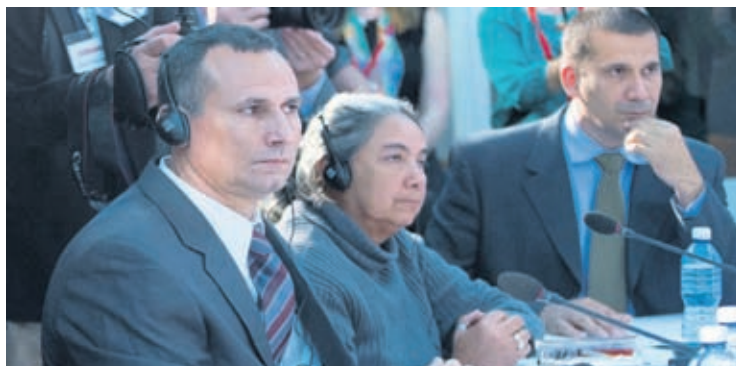
By **MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN**

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba on Wednesday accused the top U.S. diplomat in the country of working closely with José Daniel Ferrer, the detained head of one of the country's largest opposition groups.

The accusations against charge d'affaires Mara Tekach were a break from Cuba's normal language on U.S. relations, which had remained measured despite an escalating Trump administration campaign to cut off revenue and oil to Cuba.

Tekach and the U.S. Embassy in Cuba have tried



In this March 22, 2016 file photo, Jose Daniel Ferrer, from left, Juana Mora Cedeno, and Antonio Rodiles, listen during their meeting with President Barack Obama at the U.S. Embassy, in Havana, Cuba.

Associated Press

to foment division among Cubans, "identifying areas of the economy where they can direct coercive measures, and trying to slander and discredit the

performance of the Cuban government and Cuban revolution," a Cuban government statement said.

The U.S. Embassy in Cuba reopened in 2015 during

President Barack Obama's normalization of relations with the island. It has been operating with a skeleton staff since the withdrawal of most personnel in 2017 due to concerns about mysterious health symptoms whose cause has still not been publicly determined. Ferrer was detained last month on charges that remained unclear until this week. The U.S., opposition groups and human rights organizations demanded his release.

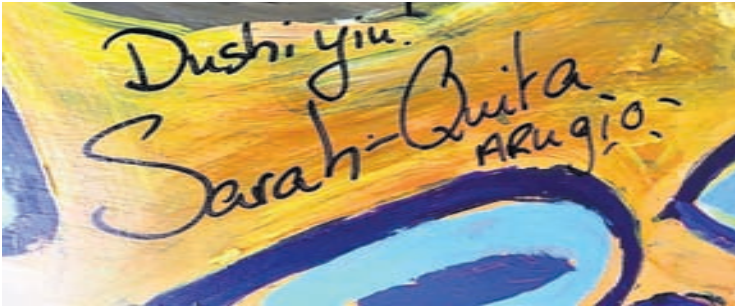
Ferrer's supporters said that he had been charged with assault and called the case a fabrication. The statement Wednesday in Gran-

ma, the Communist Party's official newspaper, said Ferrer was detained Oct. 1 with three other people on suspicion of kidnapping and assaulting another man.

It alleged that, since the detention, the United States has used the case in a campaign to discredit Cuba. "The United States Embassy in Cuba has been the fundamental vehicle for attending to, orienting and financing the conduct of José Daniel Ferrer, in a clear demonstration of interference in Cuba's internal affairs and open instigation of violence," the Cuban statement said. □

LOCAL

The 'Wave World Champion' Sarah Quita Offringa honored on a Surfboard



ORANJESTAD —Ateliers' 89 had the honor to receive the 'Wave World Champion' Sarah Quita Offringa. Her visit there was for a special occasion. Ivy-Anne Bryson, a young artist of Aruba, dedicated a painting on a surfboard, which was titled 'Lyana, the real Caribbean girl' in honor of our local star Offringa.

Offringa was very impressed with this young girl's talent and placed her signature on this wonderful artwork, which will be exposed to the public at the Aruba Art Fair 2019, this weekend.

More information in regards to this artwork can be found on the Facebook page of Ivy-Anne Bryson. □

SETAR Complete 60+



ORANJESTAD — SETAR introduces their newest package especially for seniors named 'SETAR Complete 60+' which includes an increase in free minutes for fixed telephone lines.

Since October 2019, SETAR launched their newest package SETAR Complete 60+. The package offers very attractive rates for senior clients at the age of 60 years and older. The beneficial package consists of three services which are: fixed telephone line, cable and internet. Clients 60+ can choose between two packages: the Startup Plan or the Premium Plan. With the choice of one of these packages the client will receive additional free minutes to fixed phone lines, more TV channels to choose from and a higher internet speeds of 170 to 250 Mbs. All these great services for one price. The additional free minutes and also the use of both packages has been increased. The free minutes can be used anytime during the day.

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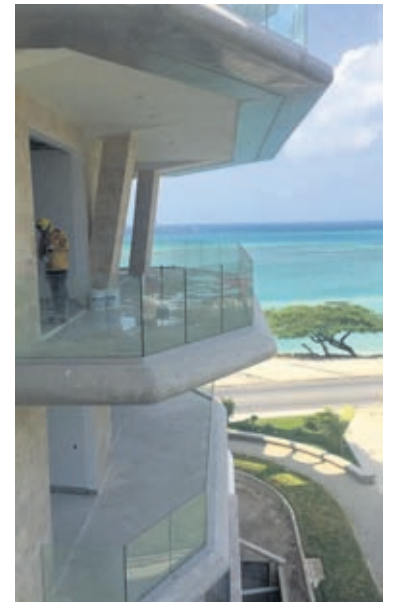
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Urban Chic in Tropical Beach Décor: Coral Shell Condominiums is made with Family Love



ORANJESTAD —The Caribbean is a paradisiacal place where anyone would like to own their own condo to enjoy family, retirement, sun, sand and sea, and leisure. Making the perfect choice for that perfect place in the jungle of offerings can be a hassle. Well, in case you are looking for the best in all senses, Coral Shell is a must-see. We will tell you why.

The best comes from the heart and in the case of Coral Shell Condominiums it is the owners who built this place as their own home. Actually it is their own home as they will live in one of the exclusive condominiums themselves. Marisabel and Albert are a warm, genuine, hard-working and driven-by-perfectionism and passion kind of couple. They do not only care for the luxury private residence they are building but take the environment into consideration in their concept as they are the park-keepers of the adjacent Boy Ecury Park. Aruba Today was shown around by the owner who while explaining all the beauty that surrounds us mentions he is a medical specialist in origin. That explains his accuracy with every tiny detail and his decision for only the best quality products. There are 16 apartments in the range from one, two, three, four and five bedrooms.

The building

The building is unique with 2 centimeter thick marble floors, exterior façade in Dominican Coral Stone, walls with concrete blocks – not dry wall, double glass windows with UV protection and sound control, a double system of air conditioning, sound control and waterproof mat under marble floor to isolate noise, fire and gas detectors in all apartments, laundry rooms and each kitchen has an InSinkErator.

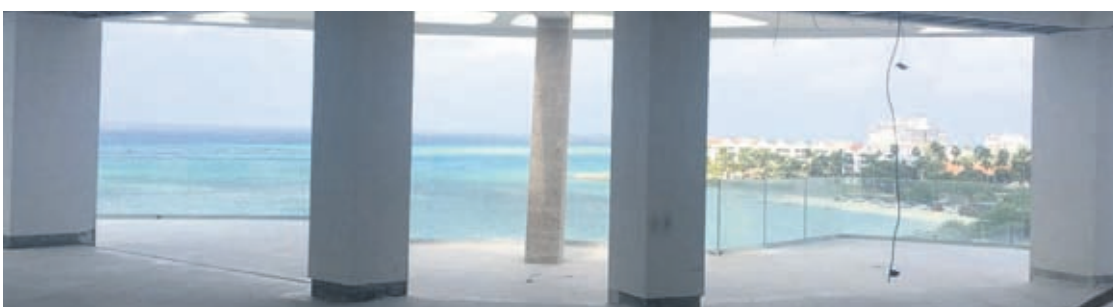
The impeccable architecture is inspiring; appearing to have an art-museum vibe. Correct, says Albert, the architect is inspired by Spanish artist Gaudi among others. The walls seem to flow in a natural way and fit perfectly into the sun-lit place and surrounding colors of nature. The kitchens are all 100% Italian brand and even installed by Italians who call this place “Palazzo”. “They said to have installed kitchens all over the world but never saw a condominium residence where all is matched so perfectly,” the owners say. “I can say with pride that this is the most exclusive condominium in the Caribbean.”

The location

You have a priceless view offering 180 degrees that gives you a turquoise ocean, big blue sky, lush green gardens and the Linear Park urban walkway. Open air, sea, sand, city and more sea ... all in one. Stroll in Boy Ecury Park, play with the children in Linear Park, take a dive in the ocean just in front of you and walk to one of the many restaurants that are close-by. Coral Shell has all the options in one. Most of the time



you have to make a choice between a seaside location, urban environment or inland greens but here you have it all. Did we mention you have your private parking under the roof? Also there is round-the clock security guard and video surveillance. How about the Infinity pool with hydro jets and the outdoor terrace with bar, sun deck, fitness center and multipurpose court? Now we did. You must see it for yourself to experience the magic of Coral Shell, the owners will be honored to guide you around! □



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The Collectables

A celebration of gratitude! Renaissance Aruba Thanksgiving dinner options

ORANJESTAD — Thanksgiving has become a tradition in Aruba where people surrounded by family, friends and good food express gratitude for all the good stuff in life. The culinary team at Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino offers different dinner options to celebrate this day of gratitude.

Aquarius Thanksgiving Buffet

The most popular buffet restaurant for families in Aruba celebrates Thanksgiving with a special all-you-can-eat buffet. On this evening, visitors can enjoy dishes such as pumpkin soup, the authentic Aru-

ban dish keshi yena, the carving station with turkey and cranberry sauce, ham from the oven with honey and ginger flavor and much more. There is also the well-known action station with unlimited access to seafood such as the beloved lobster tails. This is a good option for families who want to sit and enjoy a seafood dinner with options of a Thanksgiving feast.

L.G Smith's Steak & Chop House Thanksgiving Dinner

For anyone who wants a Thanksgiving dinner in a more elegant and intimate atmosphere, the LGS



menu is the best. From starter to main course and dessert - completely in Thanksgiving style! The special dishes can be combined with the original menu from LGS (mix & match). Choose what you want to eat and whether and how you want to combine the dishes; enjoy the taste and quality that LGS is known for. Seats for the Thanksgiving dinner at LGS are limited.

Fresco Thanksgiving Buffet

The Italian restaurant with open air and an impressive panoramic view, located at the Renaissance Ocean Suites, offers a buffet for Thanksgiving that is ideal for the whole family. Especially for this evening, you have the opportu-

nity to make your own pasta dish by choosing from linguine, fettuccine, pumpkin gnocchi and pumpkin ravioli, choose also from Italian sauces such as Marinara, Arrabbiata, Alfredo, pesto, Americana and al olio. The children will certainly enjoy this. And don't forget the famous pumpkin soup, the traditional turkey with gravy, the ham from the oven with vegetables and much more.

Thanksgiving is celebrated on Thursday, November 28. For more information or to make a reservation, contact us via 5236115 or visit the events page of Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino: facebook.com/RenaissanceAruba/events/.





ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today gives you the opportunity to express your gratitude to your blessings. Send us a small Thanksgiving message (maximum 10 words) with/without picture and we will publish it in our edition on Thanksgiving Day, November 28th. Please email to: news@arubatoday.com. Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day.

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What Is It About?

Thanksgiving is on Thursday November 28th, the day before Black Friday. Thanksgiving Day traditionally kicks off the 'holiday season' in the United States. The day was set in stone by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 and approved by Congress in 1941. FDR changed it from Abraham Lincoln's designation as the last Thursday in November (because there are sometimes five Thursdays in the month).

Say thank you in Aruba Today

While Thanksgiving is one of the biggest events in the American calendar, for Europeans it's always been a little bit of a mystery. What is it actually about? The most exposure many of us get to the holiday is by watching American television series' Thanksgiving-themed episodes - and even those tend to leave us in the dark.

Many Americans think of it as just as important as Christmas. In fact, more people in the US celebrate Thanksgiving than they do Christmas. Thanksgiving Day is a secular holiday in a country that officially separates church and state so this probably makes sense. Thanksgiving can be traced back to 1621 where refugees from England, known as Pilgrims, invited the local Native Americans to a harvest feast after they experienced a successful season of produce growth. But it wasn't just the economic drive that allowed the Pilgrims to prosper. It was their devotion to God and His laws. And that's what Thanksgiving is really all about. The Pilgrims recognized that everything we have is a gift from God - even our sorrows. Their Thanksgiving tradition

was established to honor God and thank Him for His blessings and His grace.

Although the turkey is 'the face' of Thanksgiving nowadays, the first Thanksgiving did not even include turkey, but rather a three-day feast of goose, lobster, cod and deer. Besides turkey people love stuffing and pies - pumpkin, pecan, apple and sweet potato as the traditional desserts.

Why is American football relevant to Thanksgiving? In 1934, the University of Detroit hosted the first Thanksgiving Day football game between Detroit Lions and the Chicago Bears. The game became the first-ever network broadcast event in the US and was so popular that a Thanksgiving Day football game continues today - and Detroit has played every year since.

Today people from Canada, the United States, some of the Caribbean islands, and Liberia continue the Thanksgiving tradition in their homes - or when on vacation in their holiday destination. Aruba Today wishes you a Happy Thanksgiving. ☐

Goodwill Ambassadors William and Karen Sampson



EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Jonathan Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 years or more consecutively.

The honorees were the couple **William and Karen Sampson** who have been visiting the Island for 30 years consecutively. In five more years, they will be entitled to receive the Emerald Ambassador certificate. The Emerald Ambassador is the highest certificate that we present, and is given to visitors who have been visiting Aruba 35 years or more consecutively.

This lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom became more like family to them.

Boekhoudt together with the representatives of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort presented the Goodwill Ambassador certificate to the honorees, handed over some additional presents, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. ☐

Live dance show reliving The Oscars awards




ORANJESTAD — This coming weekend Club di Movimiento (CDM) will present their Annual Dance recital on Saturday, November 23rd at 7:30 PM and Sunday November 24th at 3:00 PM. This years' theme will present "The Oscars" a dance presentation reliving the famous big screen films nominated for "The Oscars" awards.

CDM is a dance school located in Noord that was founded since 1997 under direction of Mrs. Samanta Westera-Juppa, artistic dancer and dance teacher with over 35 years of experience. CDM has a team of local and international dance teachers who are always motivating the students to grow in art and culture. CDM offers a big variety in different dance styles and acrobacy such as ballet, jazz, contemporary, modern, tap, street dance, latin, folklore, afro, acro, aerial arts (silk) and much more.

Each year the CDM students participate in different artistic activities in our community, the annual CDM Recital at Cas di Cultura and ballet exams through the Royal Academy of Dance, an international ballet organization with over 80 participating members from around the world.

"The Oscars" is a variety of dynamic, dramatic and fun filled dance choreographies. The public will enjoy a wide variety of dance styles and acrobacy, like ballet, jazz, contemporary, modern, tap, street dance, latin, folklore, afro, acro and aerial arts (silk).

The show will have a total of 190 students participating from ages three years and older and special performances by our local artists Ferdinand Franca & Marvin Rouse. Club di Movimiento cordially invites the local community of Aruba to experience this phenomenal show and support our talented youths in Cas di Cultura this weekend. For more information please check www.clubdimovimiento.com or Facebook Club di Movimiento or call (+297) 587-3413 or (+297) 738-8500. □





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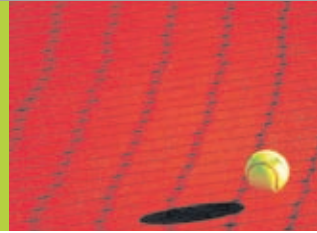
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SPORTS



In this March 8, 2002, file photo, Jake Burton Carpenter, owner of Burton Snowboards, shows an early model, right, and one of the newer snowboards, left, in his office in Burlington, Vt.

Associated Press

Snowboarding visionary Jake Burton Carpenter dies at 65

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

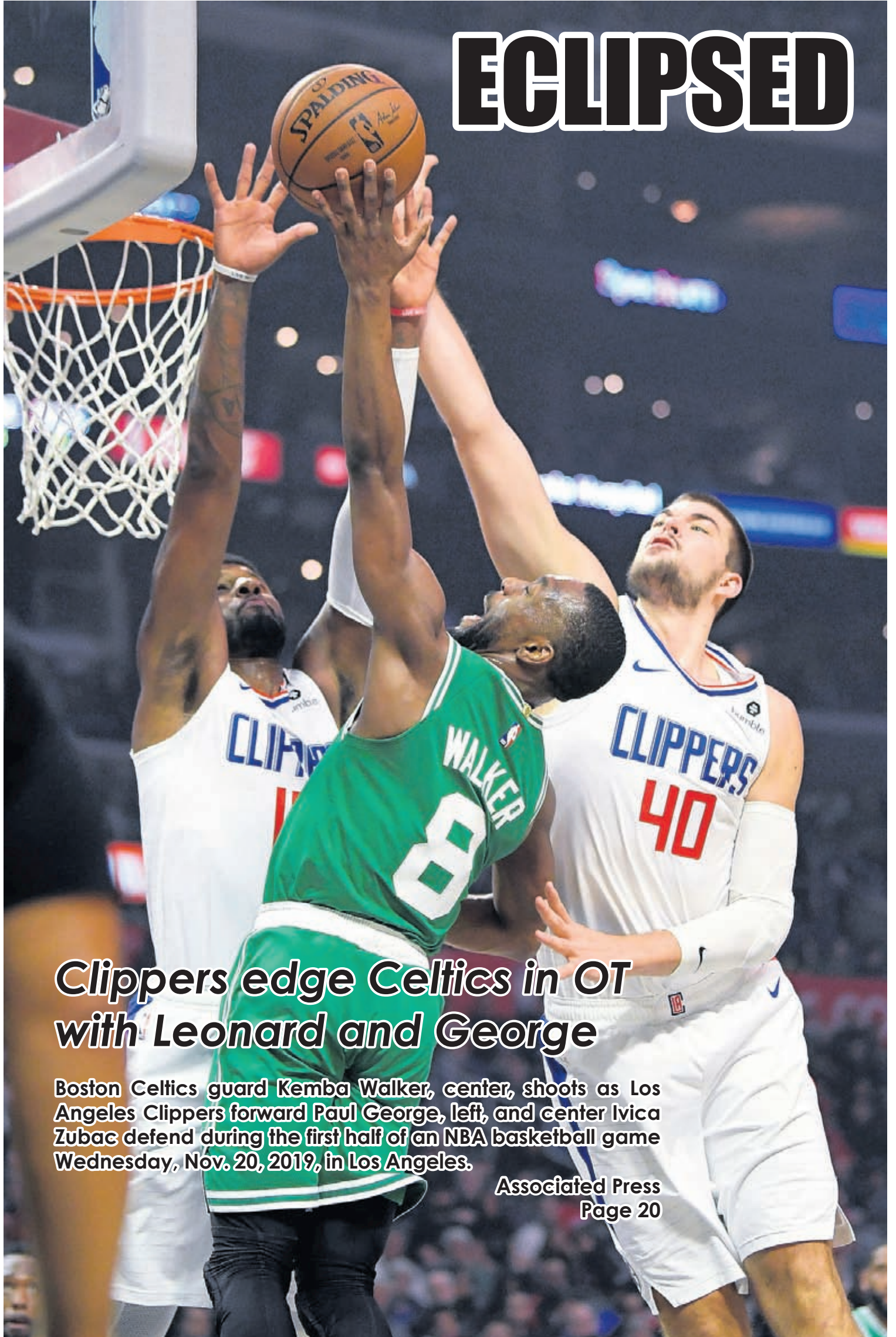
Whether you had a gold medal hanging from your neck, were just learning how to stand on a snowboard, or were one of those flustered skiers wondering where all the kids in the baggy pants were coming from, you knew the name "Burton."

Jake Burton Carpenter, the man who changed the game on the mountain by fulfilling a grand vision of what a snowboard could be, died Wednesday night of complications stemming from a relapse of testicular cancer. He was 65.

Carpenter was not the inventor of the snowboard, but 12 years after Sherman Poppen tied together a pair of skis with a rope to create what was then called a "Snurfer," the 23-year-old entrepreneur, then known only as Jake Burton, quit his job in Manhattan, moved back to Vermont and went about dreaming of how far a snowboard might take him.

Continued on Page 22

ECLIPSED



Clippers edge Celtics in OT with Leonard and George

Boston Celtics guard Kemba Walker, center, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers forward Paul George, left, and center Ivica Zubac defend during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press
Page 20

Tkachuk scores in OT, Senators beat Canadiens 2-1

MONTREAL (AP) — Brady Tkachuk finished what Jean-Gabriel Pageau started, and the Ottawa Senators feel like they have the struggling franchise moving in the right direction.

Tkachuk went five-hole on Carey Price 38 seconds into overtime, Pageau scored for the second straight game and the Senators beat the Montreal Canadiens 2-1 Wednesday night. Craig Anderson stopped 35 shots, and Ottawa won for the fourth time in five games. "We're still learning and getting better," Tkachuk said. "And we've improved so much since the start of the year. I definitely think we're trending in the right direction. Montreal rookie Nick Suzuki scored in the second period, and Price stopped 22 shots for the Canadiens a day after allowing five goals in Columbus.

Pageau beat Price at 9:55 of the second by tipping a shot from Tyler Ennis. Pageau leads the NHL with 10 goals this month, and the 27-year-old also has nine goals in 20 career games versus the Canadiens — his most against any opponent.

"It's obviously a great feeling," said Pageau, who has 13 goals this season. "I'm feeling confident in my abilities right now and I'm lucky to have the teammates I have right now. We're playing some really good hockey.

"When I shoot, I always try to score now. That's something that changes when you play with confidence." Both teams were playing on consecutive nights. Ottawa defeated the Red Wings 4-3 in Detroit on Tuesday while the Canadiens lost 5-2 to the Blue Jackets. The Canadiens were the better team in the first period, outshooting Ottawa 12-3, but neither scored.

Suzuki scored on a power play with Nikita Zaitsev in the box for cross-checking. Phillip Danault found the puck during a net-front scramble and passed to Suzuki for an easy score. It was his sixth goal of the season and came 44 seconds



Ottawa Senators left wing Brady Tkachuk (7) scores the winning goal against Montreal Canadiens goaltender Carey Price (31) during overtime NHL hockey action in Montreal, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019.

Associated Press

into the period. Ennis nearly gave Ottawa a 2-1 lead in the final minute of the second on a breakaway, but

Price made a blocker save. The visitors kept coming in the third. Price denied Ennis on a power play early

on, moments after Anthony Duclair missed the net from the slot. "We're not playing bad hockey but we're not finishing our chances," Canadiens coach Claude Julien said. "When you don't finish your chances, you give the other team a chance to stay in the game. It's frustrating, it's unfortunate, but it's not because we're playing bad hockey." Ottawa's league-worst power play finished 0 for 3. The Sens were down a forward for most of the game. Forward Vladislav Namestnikov left in the first period after falling awkwardly into the boards on a hit from defenseman Cale Fleury. He did not return.

RANGERS 4, CAPITALS 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Artemi Panarin scored twice, Hen-

rik Lundqvist stopped 30 shots, and New York beat short-handed Washington. Pavel Buchnevich had a goal and an assist, Brett Howden also scored, and Kaapo Kakko added two assists for the Rangers, who ended a two-game skid and improved to 6-3-1 in their last 10 games. Lundqvist earned his 454th win, tying Curtis Joseph for fifth on the NHL's career list. Evgeny Kuznetsov scored and Braden Holtby made 27 saves for first-place Washington, which lost in regulation for the second time in four games after an 11-0-2 stretch. The Capitals failed to earn a point for only the fourth time in 24 games, including the second time in 13 on the road. □

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With Leonard and George playing, Clippers edge Celtics in OT

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lou Williams scored 27 points, Kawhi Leonard and Paul George combined for 42 points in their first game together for the Clippers, and Los Angeles rallied to edge the Boston Celtics 107-104 in overtime Wednesday night.

George scored 25 points. Leonard added 17 and blocked Kemba Walker's potential tying 3-point attempt after injury and rehab had prevented them from playing in the same game over the season's first 14 games.

The Clippers improved to 9-1 at home after rallying from a 10-point deficit in the fourth.

Jayson Tatum led the Celtics with 30 points and Marcus Smart and Brad Wanamaker added 14 apiece.

Williams hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 31 seconds remaining in regulation. After a timeout, Tatum hit a 3-pointer with George falling down defending him to tie it 97-all with 13 seconds left.

MAVERICKS 142, WARRIORS 94

DALLAS (AP) — Luka Doncic scored 33 of his 35 points in the first half and had yet another triple-double to help Dallas rout short-handed Golden State.

Doncic fell a point short of matching Dirk Nowitzki's team record set Nov. 3, 2009, against Utah. In just 17 minutes, Doncic was 10 for 11 from the floor, making 6 of 7 3-pointers, and hit 7 of 8 free throws.

The second-year star from Slovenia had 22 points, five assists and five rebounds in the first quarter alone. He played only 25 minutes total, but still managed 10 rebounds and 11 assists.

Doncic was coming off a 40-point triple-double Monday night against San Antonio, and has an NBA-best seven triple-doubles in 14 games this season.

The Mavericks never trailed and tied a franchise record with 22 3-pointers while sending Golden State to its worst loss since a 1973 play-off game.

Tim Hardaway Jr. added



Los Angeles Clippers forward Paul George, left, and forward Kawhi Leonard stand on the court during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, in Los Angeles.

20 for Dallas. Kristaps Porzingis had 14 points and 10 rebounds for his fourth-straight double-double. Eric Paschall led the Warriors with 22 points.

NUGGETS 105, ROCKETS 95
DENVER (AP) — Nikola Jokic had 27 points and 12 rebounds, Denver played smothering defense on James Harden and the Nuggets snapped Houston's eight-game winning streak.

Harden had 27 points, ending his string of eight consecutive games of 36 or more. He was 8 of 16 from the floor as the Rockets were held under 100 points for the first time this season. Denver is 7-0 this season when keeping an opponent below 100.

Russell Westbrook scored 25 points on 8-of-22 shooting for Houston, and Clint Capela had 21 rebounds.

76ERS 109, KNICKS 104

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ben Simmons hit the first 3-pointer of his career and had 18 points and 13 assists to lead Philadelphia past New York.

Mike Scott's fourth 3-pointer with 1:29 left stretched the Sixers' lead to 99-95 and they held on after New

York's Marcus Morris hit a pair of 3s in the final 10 seconds.

Joel Embiid had 23 points and 13 rebounds, and Scott scored 12 points.

Simmons did the improbable when he fired a 24-footer from the corner in front of the 76ers' bench, sending the crowd into a frenzy. Simmons received a lengthy standing ovation for the first 3-pointer after 17 misses (and one more miss in the postseason). Morris led the Knicks with 22 points.

RAPTORS 113, MAGIC 97

TORONTO (AP) — Fred VanVleet scored 24 points, Pascal Siakam had 18 points and 11 rebounds and Toronto snapped Orlando's winning streak at three.

Orlando lost center Nikola Vucevic and forward Aaron Gordon to right ankle injuries in the second quarter. Raptors rookie Terence Davis scored a career-high 19 points, Norman Powell had 15 points, and Chris Boucher added 14 points and 11 rebounds. Defending champion Toronto improved to 6-0 at home.

Evan Fournier scored 21 points for Orlando.

HEAT 124, CAVALIERS 100

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Duncan Robinson set Miami records for 3-pointers in a quarter and a half on his way to 29 points and Miami beat Cleveland to remain unbeaten at home.

Playing in front of his college coach — the Cavs' John Beilein, who had Robinson at Michigan — the second-year guard was 9 for 15 from the field, with all those shots coming from behind the arc. Robinson set team marks with seven 3-pointers in the second quarter and eight in the first half.

His flurry helped Miami tie a franchise mark with 75 first-half points.

Tyler Herro added 22 points for Miami. Kevin Love had 25 points and 13 rebounds for Cleveland.

BUCKS 135, HAWKS 127

ATLANTA (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 33 points and 11 rebounds, Eric Bledsoe scored 28 points and Milwaukee beat Atlanta for its fifth straight victory.

Antetokounmpo, the reigning NBA MVP, has had at least 30 points and 10 rebounds an NBA-best nine times this season. The Bucks have won nine of 10 and

improved to an NBA-best 8-2 on the road.

Atlanta rookie De'Andre Hunter had a career-high 27 points. Trae Young added 25.

JAZZ 103, TIMBERWOLVES 95
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Bojan Bogdanovic scored 30 points, Donovan Mitchell added 26 and Utah beat Minnesota to split a home-and-home series.

Bogdanovic and Mitchell each hit three 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. Bogdanovic was 6 of 11 from 3-point range, and Mitchell 5 of 10 to help Utah rebound for a home loss to Minnesota on Monday night.

Andrew Wiggins had 22 points for Minnesota after missing three games because of personal reasons and an illness. Karl-Anthony Towns was held to 14 points and struggled with foul trouble most of the night.

WIZARDS 138, SPURS 132

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bradley Beal shot 9 for 9 in a 21-point third quarter and finished with 33 to help Washington hand San Antonio its seventh consecutive loss.

Davis Bertans, acquired by Washington from San Antonio in the offseason, scored 21 points, and so did Ish Smith.

DeMar DeRozan scored 31 points for San Antonio. The Spurs fell to 5-10.

NETS 101, HORNETS 91

NEW YORK (AP) — Jarrett Allen had 22 points and 17 rebounds in Brooklyn's victory over Charlotte.

Taurean Prince and Spencer Dinwiddie added 20 points apiece. Brooklyn was without Kyrie Irving for the third straight game because of a right shoulder injury.

Terry Rozier had 18 points for Charlotte.

BULLS 109, PISTONS 89

CHICAGO (AP) — Lauri Markkanen scored 24 points to bust out of a slump, Wendell Carter Jr. had 12 points and 15 rebounds and Chicago beat Detroit.

Derrick Rose had 18 points and Blake Griffin — in his third game of the season — added 16 for Detroit. □

Kim builds 2-shot lead in LPGA Tour Championship

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — Sei Young Kim set a goal of winning three times this year on the LPGA Tour, and she's down to her last chance.

Reaching the goal would pay off big at the CME Group Tour Championship. Kim scrambled to keep bogeys off her card Thursday along the back nine at Tiburon Golf Club, and then she pulled away from the pack with one big shot. Her approach on the par-5 17th narrowly stayed on the fringe of the green, and she holed the 12-foot eagle putt that carried her to a 7-under 65 and a two-shot lead in the final LPGA Tour event of the year.

The winner gets \$1.5 million, the richest prize in the history of women's golf.

"This tournament really special," Kim said. "But I try to just make myself comfortable. I don't put any extra pressure on myself."

Nelly Korda, the highest-ranked American at No. 3 in the world ranking, did her best to make sure Kim didn't get too far away, even after one round. She birdied the par-3 16th, holed a 35-foot eagle putt from just off the 17th green and closed with a 20-foot birdie.

That took her from middle of the pack to a 67, leaving her two shots behind.

So Yeon Ryu and Georgia Hall, both past major champions, also were at 67.

"To be honest, this year is one of the worst seasons I've ever had," said Ryu, who has yet to win this year. "So if I can win this tournament, it's going to be awesome to finish the season, and then I'm not going to complain."

That's the effect of \$1.5 million, which dwarfs the \$1 million payoff at the U.S. Women's Open, won by Jeongeun Lee6. The next-biggest check in women's golf was \$675,000 at the Women's British Open.

The change this year at the Tour Championship is that all 60 players who qualified get the \$1.5 million if they win the tournament. Previously, it was based on points from earned all season, and only the top 12 were given a shot at the \$1 million bonus.

Because the money is official, Jin Young Ko is not assured of capturing the money title even though she has been the best in women's golf this year. Ko, who won two majors among her four LPGA titles, clinched the LPGA player of the year with three tournaments left, and she leads the money list by more than \$700,000.

Playing for the first time since an ankle injury caused her to withdraw in Taiwan three weeks ago, she made her way around Tiburon without a limp, but without many birdies, either.

Ko took double bogey on the fourth hole, made her third birdie with a 12-foot putt on the par-3 eighth and closed with 10 pars for a 71.

Still, this day was more about players not shooting themselves out of the tournament.

That's what Ariya Jutanugarn might have done. She didn't make a birdie until the final hole to salvage a 76, leaving her 11 shots behind. Jutanugarn has yet to win this season, one year after she swept all the major awards on the LPGA Tour.

Brooke Henderson, one of seven players to win multiple times on the LPGA this year, did well to stay in the mix. She hit a thin 7-iron out of the pine straw on the 15th hole, a bad shot that turned good when it ran on the fast turf of Tiburon between bunkers and onto the green to 12 feet for birdie.

She followed that by chipping across the green for a sloppy bogey on the 16th, and then failing to birdie the par-5 17th. □



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland watches his ball on the 3rd hole during the first round of the DP World Tour Championship golf tournament in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019. Associated Press

McIlroy's 'perfect' shot upstages Race to Dubai title battle

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Out of the running for the Race to Dubai title, Rory McIlroy still forced his way onto center stage at the season-ending World Tour Championship on Thursday by producing one of his greatest shots of the year.

McIlroy flushed a 3-wood from 291 yards with his second shot at the par-5 18th hole on the Earth Course, the ball settling five feet from the cup. He rolled in the eagle putt for an 8-under 64, leaving the second-ranked McIlroy a stroke off the lead held by ailing Frenchman Mike Lorenzo-Vera.

"As soon as I hit it, I knew it was perfect," the four-time major champion said, adding it was "possibly the best shot I've hit all year."

It was McIlroy's best round at an event he won in 2012 and 2015. Even if he makes it three victories in eight years in Dubai, it still won't be enough for him to be crowned Europe's No. 1 player.

Five players are still in contention for that honor, and Jon Rahm made the best start of the quintet by shooting a bogey-free, 6-under 66 to move into third place, three strokes behind Lorenzo-Vera.

Rahm last played competitively in early October at the Open de Espana — a

tournament he won by five shots — and said he barely touched a club for five of the past six weeks he took off in the longest break of his career.

"I could tell how rested I was mentally because on some holes I never lost patience, I never really got down on myself and stayed with that positive attitude," said Rahm, who is known for his fiery temperament on the course. "I'm hoping I can keep playing solid and keep it for the next three days."

"It was hard to get into that routine again but once I came to the tournament, you kind of switch, you get to the tournament, you get to grinding."

Rahm needs a win this week to stand a chance of taking the Race to Dubai title for the first time. As does Tommy Fleetwood, who was happy with his start, too.

Fleetwood, winner of the Nedbank Challenge in South Africa last week, began his round by holing out from 153 yards for eagle on No. 1 and shot 67 for a tie for fourth place.

"You can only put yourself out of it on day one," said Fleetwood, who is second in the Race to Dubai standings and is looking to capture the title for the second time in three years. "There's a lot more to do. There's 54

holes now. There are great players up there and all I can do is do my stuff. I've got three days of work left really until the end of the year. Just make the most of them."

Of the other Race to Dubai contenders, Bernd Wiesberger shot 70 and was tied for 14th place, Matt Fitzpatrick shot 71, and Shane Lowry shot 73.

Wiesberger leads the race and will lift the trophy if he wins in Dubai or finishes alone in second place.

"I'm just thinking 72-hole tournament this week. I'm not trying to look at what is happening," said Wiesberger, who has won three tournaments this year in a strong return from seven months out with a wrist injury. "I can't control what Tommy, Matt, Shane and Jon are doing."

Fleetwood knows a win, coupled with Wiesberger finishing lower than outright second, will be enough to be Europe's No. 1 again. The same scenario faces third-place Rahm, who won the World Tour Championship in 2017 and placed fourth last year.

Lorenzo-Vera finished with four straight birdies to tie his lowest round of the season, even though he said he was feeling "under the weather" because of a lung infection he caught in South Africa last week. □

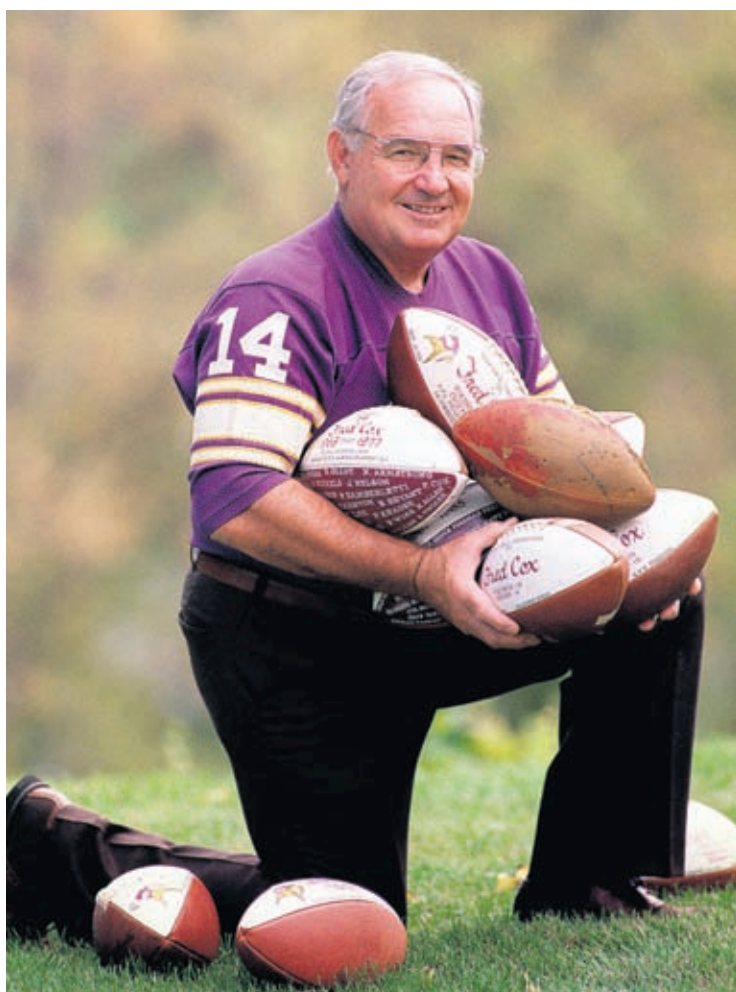
Fred Cox, former Vikings kicker, dies at age 80

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Former Minnesota Vikings kicker Fred Cox, one of the last of the straight-on place-kickers and a standout on several conference championship teams, has died. He was 80.

Cox's wife, Bonnie, notified the Vikings' alumni affairs office of his death. Cox had had been in hospice care at his home in Monticello northwest of the Twin Cities because of kidney and heart problems.

"My health is not good, obviously," Cox told the Pioneer Press on Saturday in an interview at his home. "I have kidneys that don't work and a heart that doesn't function, but other than that I'm great."

Cox, who also co-created the Nerf football, scored a Minnesota-record 1,365 points in his 15 seasons, often kicking in nasty conditions because the Vikings played outdoors during his career from 1963-77. When he retired, he was second in NFL history in scoring behind George Blanda — who also played quarter-



In this Sept. 1997 file photo, former Minnesota Vikings kicker Fred Cox holds his original Nerf football, among his other souvenir balls, in Monticello, Minn..

Associated Press

back — and had made 282 field goals.

Cox was one of 11 Vikings to play in all four of the

team's Super Bowls, all defeats. He kicked in 18 post-season games.

The Vikings called Cox "one of our proudest legends, a respected teammate and friend. Fred's football career as the Vikings' all-time leading scorer set the stage for a life where he went on to achieve great things in business and in his community. Fred's positive energy, strength in his faith and passion for life will be missed."

During his playing days he also got a chiropractor's license.

An All-Pro in 1969, Cox twice led the league in scoring while using a square-toed shoe to do his kicking. On a team with several Hall of Famers, including Fran Tarkenton, Carl Eller, Alan Page and Paul Krause, Cox also was a standout.

But he never earned a Super Bowl victory, and once said:

"The fans have never been able to live with the fact that we lost four times," Cox said. "But the bottom line is that for any team to get

there four times is an amazing feat."

Cox played fullback as well as kicked at Pitt. Drafted by the Browns in the eighth round in 1961, he sat out a year because of a back injury. But he learned about NFL kicking from another Hall of Famer, Cleveland's Lou "The Toe" Groza, also a straight-on kicker.

Minnesota acquired Cox in 1962, but cut him. He made the Vikings the next year and stuck for 15 seasons.

Bud Grant, who coached those Vikings squads, told the team's website that "Fred was the ultimate team player for us. He took part in all of our scout teams, playing running back or whatever we asked of him. He was a great asset to our team, a true credit to the team and his community. If you saw those games, he always stood right next to me on the sideline because he was such a big part of what we were doing with field position and knew the game so well."

Cox is survived by Bonnie and four children. □



In this March 8, 2012, file photo, Jake Burton Carpenter, the creator of Burton Snowboards, center, speaks during a bill signing with Gov. Peter Shumlin, to the right of Burton, in Stowe, Vt.

Associated Press

"I had a vision there was a sport there, that it was more than just a sledding thing, which is all it was then," Burton said in a 2010 interview with The Associated Press. For years, Burton's snowboards were largely snubbed at resorts — its dimensions too untested, its riders too unrefined, its danger all too real — and many wouldn't allow them to share the slopes with the

cultured ski elite in Colorado or California or, heaven forbid, the Swiss Alps. But those riders were a force of nature. And for all their risk-taking, rule-breaking, sidwinding trips down the mountain, they spent money, too. Throughout the last decade, snowboarders have accounted for more than 25 percent of visitors to mountain resorts in the United States. They

Snowboarding Continued from Page 18

have bankrolled a business worth more than \$1 billion annually — a big chunk of which is spent on Burton gear.

"People take it for granted now," said Pat Bridges, a longtime writer for Snowboarding Magazine, who has followed the industry for decades. "They don't even realize that the name 'Burton' isn't a company. It's a person. Obviously, it's the biggest brand in snowboarding. The man himself is even bigger."

In 1998, and with Carpenter's tacit blessing, the Olympics got in on the act, in hopes of injecting some youth into an older-skewing program filled with ski jumpers, bobsledders, figure skaters and hockey players. As the years passed, Carpenter straddled the delicate line between the "lifestyle sport" he'd helped create — one that professed to value fun over winning, losing, money or

Olympic medals — and the mass-marketing behemoth snowboarding was fast becoming.

"He saw himself as a steward to snowboarding," Bridges said. "I'm not saying he was infallible, or that he always made the right choices. But at least that was always part of his calculus: 'What impact is this decision going to have on snowboarding?'"

Though Burton is a private company that does not release financials, its annual sales were north of \$500 million as of 2015. In addition to the hundreds of retail stores that sell the company's merchandise, Burton has 30 flagship shops in America and 11 more spread across Europe and Asia — a burgeoning market that Carpenter started developing a decade ago, during a time when the IOC was beginning the process of awarding three straight Winter

Games to the continent. At a bar in Pyeongchang, South Korea, not far from where snowboarding celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Olympics last year, there was a wall filled with Burton pictures and memorabilia — as sure a sign as any of the global reach of a company that remains headquartered not far from where it was founded in Carpenter's garage, in Londonderry, Vermont.

For all his financial success, folks were always more likely to run into Carpenter wearing a snowsuit than a sportscoat. He was a fan of early morning backcountry rides, and he had to stay in good shape to keep up with some of the company he rode with.

Burton sponsored pretty much every big name in the business at one time or another — from Seth Wescott to Shaun White, from Kelly Clark to Chloe Kim. □

Steelers QB Rudolph denies report he used racial slur

By **WILL GRAVES**

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The on-field fight between Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph and Cleveland Browns defensive end Myles Garrett has turned into a war of words off it, with Rudolph denying an anonymous report alleging he used a racial slur shortly before their now infamous confrontation last week. ESPN, citing anonymous sources, reported Garrett told the NFL during the appeal of his indefinite suspension Rudolph used a racial slur just before a confrontation between the two players that included Garrett ripping off Rudolph's helmet and then hitting the quarterback in the head with it.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the league investigated Garrett's claim and "found no such evidence" of the slur. The NFL upheld Garrett's indefinite suspension on Thursday, though the accusation added another complex layer to an already emotionally charged rivalry, with members of both clubs rising to the defense of their teammates.

"I was never sure what provoked Myles in the first place," Browns guard Joel Botino said. "Obviously something was provoking him, if it was in the pile or not and I think it just shows that he was provoked and if it was a racial slur, if it was something else that was said, something was said to kind of make it, it always



Cleveland Browns defensive end Myles Garrett (95) takes Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph's (2) helmet off during the second half of an NFL football game Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019, in Cleveland.

takes two to tango. Most times people don't just freak out on that and we understand that, but we'll see what happens from here."

Cleveland coach Freddie Kitchens said he supports Garrett "in every way possible" but did not comment when asked if Garrett told Kitchens about the slur in the aftermath of the fight. Defensive lineman Sheldon Richardson said Garrett "wouldn't lie on nothing like that" but later added "(Rudolph) could have called him anything. I don't know." Rudolph was scheduled to speak to reporters on Thursday but declined shortly after the ESPN report surfaced. Steelers spokesman Burt Lauten said Rudolph "vehemently denies" the allegation. Rudolph, who has

not yet been disciplined for his role in the fight, spoke about the incident on Wednesday, saying there was "no acceptable excuse" for his behavior while adding he "definitely didn't say anything that escalated" the situation.

Pittsburgh defensive lineman Cam Heyward said Rudolph approached him as practice ended on Thursday when both players saw the report on a television while walking past the team's weight room. Heyward, a captain and nine-year veteran who is among the club's longest-tenured players, said he believes Rudolph and questioned why Garrett would wait until the appeal to bring up potentially damaging information.

"I thought it would have

been brought up right after (the game), there would have been multiple guys speaking up about it," Heyward said. "You know, I don't condone racial slurs ever and Mason, dealing with that, he's going to be labeled for it. That's just not right. I don't appreciate that."

The trouble began in the final seconds of Cleveland's 21-7 victory on Nov. 14 when Rudolph flipped a short pass to running back Jaylen Samuels. Garrett hit Rudolph immediately after Rudolph released the ball, twisting Rudolph to the ground as play continued downfield. Rudolph took exception to Garrett wrapping him up, calling it "late." Rudolph said he was trying to get away from Garrett — who was not flagged on

Associated Press

the play — when he briefly grabbed the back of the 6-foot-4, 272-pound Garrett's helmet.

Garrett responded by tugging Rudolph's helmet off and holding it high while Steelers guard David DeCastro attempted to separate them. Rudolph scrambled to his feet and gave chase. Garrett swung Rudolph's helmet at the quarterback, striking him on the right side of the head. Pittsburgh center Maurkice Pouncey ran in and kicked and punched at Garrett. The NFL initially suspended Pouncey for three games before reducing it to two on appeal, meaning he will not play when the Steelers and Browns meet at Heinz Field on Dec. 1.

Heyward said there were "mistakes made by both people" but worries that Rudolph will be forever scarred by the allegation.

"I know he's not going to talk about it because he's being villainized by it but he said, 'I'm going to be labeled as (a racist),' " Heyward said. "And I just don't think that's right. That's my teammate. I'm going to fight for him. Do what's best for him. But, that kid made a bad mistake but he never crossed the line talking about racial slurs."

Rudolph's agent Tim Young called the allegation "a lie" and "an assault on Mason's integrity."

Botino allowed "you're probably never going to find out the exact truth. It's always somewhere in between usually." □

Former NBA executive wants to bring MLB to Orlando

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The man who helped bring an NBA team to Orlando said Wednesday that he wants to bring a Major League Baseball team to the theme park mecca.

Pat Williams, a former executive with the NBA's Orlando Magic, said that Orlando was more deserving than a half-dozen other cities that have been mentioned as homes to potential MLB expansion teams

in the future. Those markets are Charlotte, North Carolina.; Las Vegas; Montreal; Nashville, Tennessee; Portland, Oregon; and Vancouver.

With a population of 2.5 million residents, metro Orlando also gets 75 million tourists each year. In addition to pro basketball, the region has professional men's and women's soccer teams.

"Orlando keeps growing and sports needs to be a part of that," Williams said.

"Our resume here is much stronger than those other markets."

Williams' desire may be a pipedream since Florida already has two MLB teams with anemic attendance. The Miami Marlins and the Tampa Bay Rays respectively had the worst and second-to-worst attendance of Major League Baseball's 30 teams this season.

So Williams on Wednesday offered what may be an appropriate name for the

team: the Dreamers. He unveiled a red baseball cap with a black "O" as the logo, as well as a website, <https://orlandodreamers.com/>.

Williams said he's dipping his toe in the water to gauge interest in Orlando before making concrete plans. Major League Baseball spokesman Mike Tevan said the league didn't have an immediate comment Wednesday.

Commissioner Rob Manfred has repeatedly said

expansion won't be considered until the Oakland Athletics and the Rays get new ballparks. The Rays last December abandoned plans for a ballpark in Tampa's Ybor City area. Owner Stuart Sternberg said then that the team must start thinking about where it will play when its lease at St. Petersburg's Tropicana Field ends after the 2027 season. MLB gave the Rays approval in June to explore playing part of their home schedule in Montreal. □

Road-safety regulator rapped over regulating autonomous cars

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP Business Writer

The nation's road-safety regulator is under fire again for what critics call lax oversight of tests involving autonomous vehicles.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration doesn't give enough direction to companies developing autonomous cars, the chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board said Wednesday.

Senators quizzed NHTSA's acting administrator on why the agency hasn't set standards for automatic braking and steering systems that are becoming more common, and why the agency hasn't confronted Tesla about widely shared hacks that let drivers take their hands off the steering wheel.

NHTSA's acting administrator, James Owens, told lawmakers that his agency is assessing autonomous vehicle technology and researching how people interact with it.

He said, however, that the agency fears it could stifle innovation if it goes too far in regulating technology that is still evolving.

The comments at a hearing of the Senate Commerce Committee came one day after the transportation safety board blamed



In this Dec. 18, 2018 file photo, one of the test vehicles from Argo AI, Ford's autonomous vehicle unit, navigates through the strip district near the company offices in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

a distracted backup driver for letting an autonomous Uber test car strike and kill a pedestrian last year.

The board said NHTSA has failed to adequately oversee autonomous-vehicle testing. Board member Jennifer Homendy accused NHTSA of putting technology advancement above saving lives.

The safety board recommended that NHTSA require car developers to submit safety reports, and that NHTSA review the plans to make sure the companies

have safeguards in place — for instance, to make sure operators are paying attention while the vehicles are moving.

Currently those reports are voluntary, and few companies file them — 16 so far, while there are about 80 companies testing autonomous cars, according to safety board Chairman Robert Sumwalt.

He said some of those plans are nothing more than marketing brochures.

"The manufacturers are not going to be objective in

evaluating their own safety assessments," Sumwalt told the senators.

"There needs to be a federal look at these assessments to make sure that they are done properly."

Owens said NHTSA will evaluate the safety board's recommendations.

Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., asked Owens whether NHTSA will set minimum safety standards for automatic braking and steering systems.

He responded that developers are still improv-

ing those systems. "We will establish safety standards when we determine that the technology is proven," Owens said.

"If we establish standards too quickly, we run the risk of stymieing innovation."

NHTSA said it would seek public comment on test procedures to evaluate advanced driving systems such as automatic emergency braking and adaptive cruise control that keeps drivers a set distance from vehicles in front of them.

Sen. Edward Markey, D-Mass., cited a TV news report claiming to show Tesla drivers how to use a water bottle wedged in the steering wheel to trick the car into thinking they have their hands on the wheel, which is required to operate the auto-pilot feature.

He wanted to know what NHTSA has done to confront Tesla about countering the purported hack to make sure "that these cars don't wind up killing people."

Owens was unable to say whether the agency had raised the issue with Tesla.

Markey said Tesla should disable auto-pilot until it fixes the problem.

Tesla did not immediately respond to requests for comment. □



In this Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019 file photo, a Disney logo forms part of a menu for the Disney Plus movie and entertainment streaming service on a computer screen in Walpole, Mass.

Associated Press

By **MATT O'BRIEN**
AP Technology Writer

Disney said Disney Plus account passwords being sold in underground hacking forums are coming from previous breaches at other companies, predating last

week's launch of its streaming service.

The company reiterated Wednesday that it found no evidence of a security breach and that account problems are limited to "a very small percentage of

Disney Plus blames past hacks for user accounts sold online

users" of Disney Plus.

Disney and other traditional media companies are trying to capture the subscription revenue now going to Netflix and other streaming giants. Helped by promotions, including a free year for some Verizon customers, Disney Plus attracted 10 million subscribers on its first day.

The news site ZDNet found stolen account usernames and passwords selling for \$3 on underground hacking forums. Disney's streaming service costs \$7 a month or \$70 a year.

Despite warnings by security experts, users often reuse passwords at multiple ser-

vices, meaning a breach at one opens the door for a hacker to gain access to the others.

Users can easily avoid this by using strong passwords that are unique for each service, said Troy Hunt, an Australian security researcher whose "Have I Been Pwned?" website alerts people when their identity information is stolen.

"The Disney situation appears to be yet another credential stuffing attack where hackers exploit a combination of customers reusing passwords and the service provider not providing sufficient defenses

to stop it," Hunt said in an email. Paul Rohmeyer, a professor at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, said he's surprised that streaming services haven't yet implemented better security such as multi-factor authentication.

With multi-factor authentication, users must enter a code sent as a text message or email when logging in from a new device. The code helps ensure that people using stolen passwords or guessing them can't use a service without also having access to the legitimate user's phone or email account. □

Wipe out credit card debt by setting SMART goals

By **MELISSA LAMBARENA**
Associated Press

Shatoria Smith was tired of the \$5,000 in credit card debt she felt was blocking her from reaching her financial goals. She couldn't see an easy path to being debt-free, so she drew herself a map by adapting a goal-setting framework she'd first heard about in a college business class: the SMART method.

"The SMART goal framework helps you dig deep and devise a plan of how to actually accomplish it," says Smith, who lives in Florida and writes about debt, budgeting and personal finance on her blog, Coin Countin Mama. "I was very motivated."

SMART was created by management consultant George T. Doran in the early 1980s as a tool for helping businesses set performance objectives. Over the years, it has been adapted for goal-setting situations beyond the workplace. Smith applied it to her finances in late 2014.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SMART

As originally laid out by



This Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018 file photo shows credit card logos posted on a store's door in Philadelphia.

Doran, the SMART acronym calls for goals to be specific, measurable, assignable, realistic and time-related. Here's how to apply it to credit card debt:

— **Specific.** Define exactly what you want to accomplish and how you will do it. Smith set a different strategy for each of her three credit cards. For one of

them, she wrote that she wanted to pay off \$2,450 within a year so she could free up money to pay student loans. Her budget included \$300 every month toward that goal.

— **Measureable.** Track your progress. You could do so with pen and paper, a spreadsheet, an app or whatever works for you.

Smith used an app with a goal-tracking feature.

— **Assignable.** Make clear where responsibility lies at each step. This is especially relevant if you're paying down debt with a partner. (Some modern versions of SMART replace "assignable" with "achievable," meaning the goal should be realistic.)

— **Realistic.** Set goals that are achievable with the resources available. You can dream big, but the smaller steps that lead up to that dream should be within reach. At this stage, stop using credit cards while paying down debt to get results. (Some versions replace "realistic" with "relevant," meaning the goal is worth pursuing.)

— **Time-related.** Set a deadline. The timeline should be based on what you can do, not just your desires. Smith says she crunched the numbers to establish the deadline that she met toward the end of 2015.

CONFRONT YOUR BUDGET

Getting an accurate picture of your finances, such as overall expenses and the money available to pay down debt, is the key to setting SMART goals, says Adam Hagerman, a Maryland-based certified financial planner and educator who uses the method to help clients meet financial goals.

Once you get that accurate picture, he says, you may need to revise your original goals. □

Stocks move lower on Wall Street over trade anxiety

By **DAMIAN J. TROISE**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks fell in early trading on Wall Street Thursday as investors worry that the U.S. and China will fail to make a trade deal before the year is over.

The world's largest economies have been negotiating a resolution to their trade war ahead of new tariffs set to hit key consumer goods on Dec. 15.

Investors have been hoping for a deal before that happens. The tariffs would increase prices on smartphones, laptops and many common household goods.

China's Commerce Ministry batted away rumors that the talks were in trouble. A ministry spokesman said Beijing was committed to continuing discussions on core concerns. The Wall Street Journal is also report-

ing that China's chief negotiator has called for more face-to-face negotiations. Technology stocks were among the biggest losers in the early going. Many chipmakers and companies that make hardware rely on China for sales and supply chains.

Health care stocks also fell broadly.

Rising oil prices helped lift energy stocks. Exxon Mobil rose 1.4%.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.77% from 1.74% late Wednesday.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index fell 0.3% as of 10:20 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 92 points, or 0.3%, to 27,727. The Nasdaq fell 0.4%. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks fell 0.5%.

DEALS OF THE DAY: Tiffany jumped 2.6% following a re-

port that LVMH would raise its bid for the company. TD Ameritrade soared 15% after a report that Charles Schwab was in talks to acquire it.

PayPal slipped 1% after saying it would buy Honey Science, which helps people find coupons and discounts while they shop online.

MIXED SHOPPING BAG: Retailers continued to report a mixed batch of earnings. Macy's fell 2.7% after

cutting its profit and sales forecast. Investors rewarded Victoria's Secret owner L Brands with a 10.4% gain after the company met Wall Street's profit expectations.

Several other well-known retailers will report earnings later Thursday, including Nordstrom and Gap.

OVERSEAS: European and Asian markets moved broadly lower. The Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation

and Development forecast global economic growth to be 2.9% in 2019, which would mark the lowest growth since the financial crisis. □

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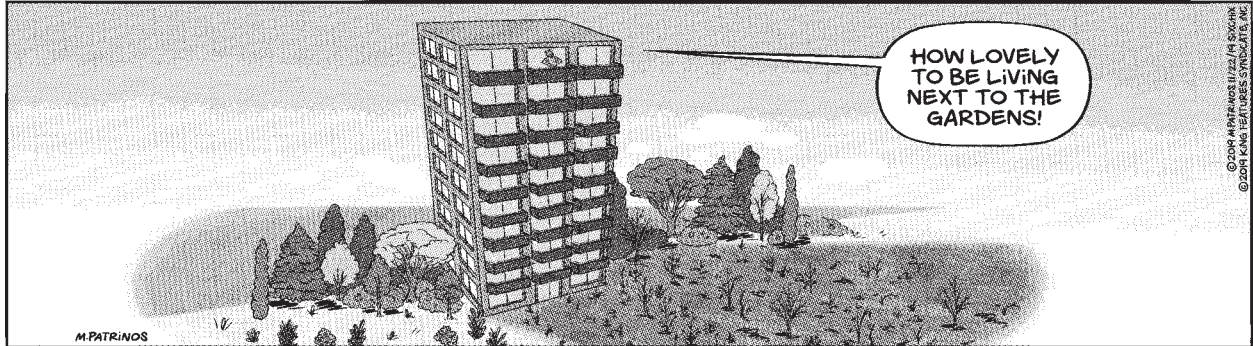
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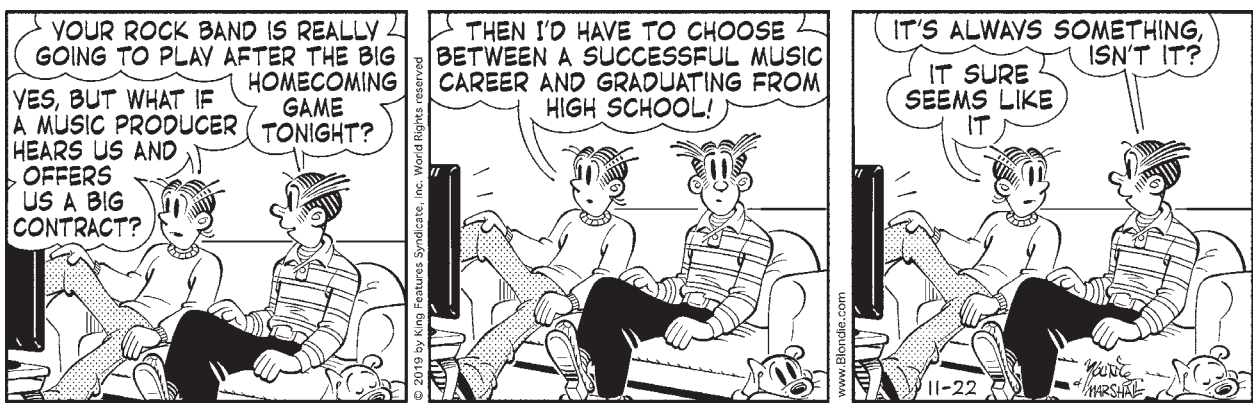
Mutts



6 Chix



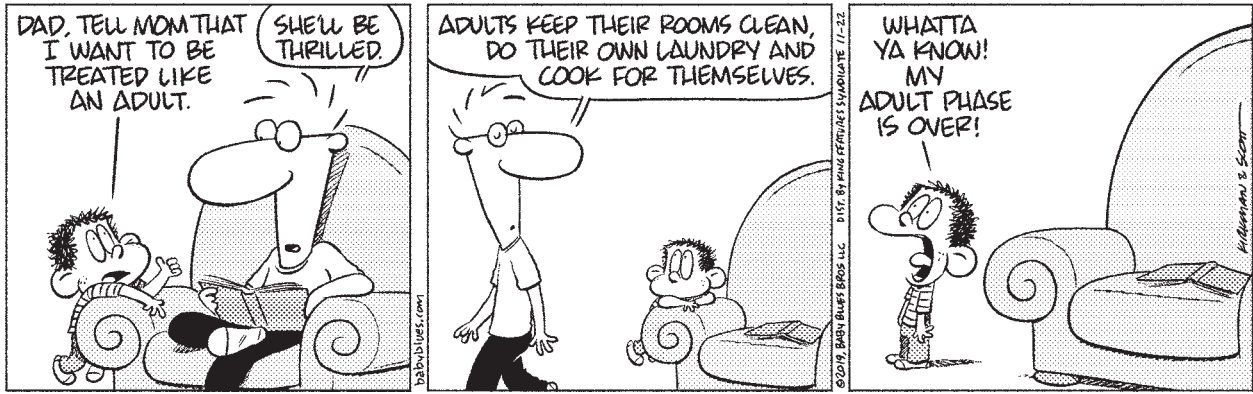
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

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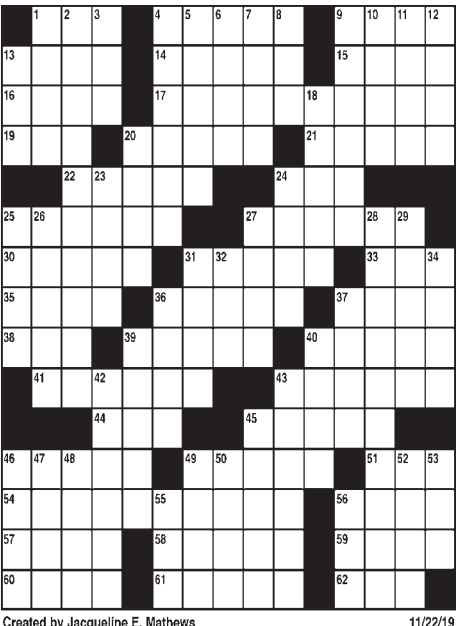
Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 11/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 8 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 1 |
| 7 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 2 |
| 9 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| 5 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| 2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 4 |

- ACROSS**
- 1 Medical scan letters
 - 4 Old Testament book
 - 9 Gator's cousin
 - 13 South Beach or Jenny Craig
 - 14 Pueblo building block
 - 15 "I ___ a Dream"; MLK speech
 - 16 Not difficult
 - 17 Danish capital
 - 19 TV crime drama series
 - 20 Loses one's hair
 - 21 Give a heads-up to
 - 22 Sketches
 - 24 Gobbled up
 - 25 Coils of yarn
 - 27 Singer Franklin
 - 30 Knight's spear
 - 31 Crosses the pool
 - 33 Big game, for a hunter
 - 35 Eczema symptom
 - 36 Gets an "F"
 - 37 Painter Salvador
 - 38 Lemon meringue
 - 39 Sprinkles at the table
 - 40 Roamed
 - 41 Real ___; Century 21's business
 - 43 Strolls leisurely
 - 44 Early afternoon hour
 - 45 Altar plate
 - 46 Bulky in body
 - 49 "Good things come to ___ who wait"
 - 51 Word of astonishment
 - 54 Brave
 - 56 Most populous Hawaiian island
 - 57 Tool with an arched blade
 - 58 Spend foolishly
 - 59 Linkletter & others
 - 60 Frame of mind
 - 61 "God ___ America"
 - 62 Sullivan & Bradley



Thursday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | I | B | S | S | A | L | A | D | B | E | D | E |
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| A | W | R | Y | | R | E | G | I | S | T | E | R |
| D | A | D | | P | U | R | E | | H | A | N | D |
| | | | | E | V | I | C | T | | P | I | T |
| C | A | N | I | N | E | | S | I | G | H | T | S |
| O | N | S | E | T | | M | O | O | C | H | E | L |
| S | N | O | W | | C | A | U | L | K | T | R | I |
| T | O | M | | B | A | R | R | E | | P | O | R |
| | | | | Y | E | A | R | S | | C | I | G |
| | | | | | G | E | E | | O | U | T | |
| A | G | R | E | E | | G | U | S | H | | I | N |
| S | L | E | N | D | E | R | E | S | T | | T | R |
| A | U | N | T | | D | I | T | T | O | | E | M |
| N | E | T | S | | S | P | A | S | M | | N | A |
| B | S | | | | | | | | | | | S |

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- 40 Learned by ___; memorized
- 42 Took a sightseeing trip
- 43 Large crowds
- 45 Feels sorry for oneself
- 46 Illegal way to make money
- 47 Excited activity
- 48 Greek liqueur
- 49 Greenish-blue
- 50 Nyons
- 52 Pitcher's objectives
- 53 Madison's place; abbr.
- 55 Initials for Clinton's successor
- 56 West of filmdom



In this Aug. 3, 2016 file photo, a herd of bison grazes in the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone National Park in Wyo.

Associated Press

Study: Yellowstone bison mow, fertilize their own grass

Associated Press

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — A study of grazing in Yellowstone National Park found that bison essentially mow and fertilize their own food. This allows them to graze in one area for two to three months during the spring and summer while other hoofed mammals must keep migrating to higher elevations to follow new plant growth.

Hundreds of bison grazing in an area stimulates the growth of nutritious grasses, in part because their waste acts as a fertilizer, according to research published this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"They add fertilizer through urinating and defecating, they drop nutrients back on the landscape, which are then available to plants," Yellowstone scientist Chris Geremia said Wednesday. "It's almost like the bison become this giant fleet of lawnmowers moving back and forth across the landscape," he said.

When more bison grazed an area more intensely, the area greened up earlier and faster and the grass stayed greener and had a higher nutritional quality for a much longer time, Geremia said.

Many other migratory animals in Yellowstone — pronghorn, bighorn sheep, mule deer and elk — do not form these large groups while they migrate and graze, Geremia said. "Bison don't just move to find food, kind of the classic way that we think of animal migration," Geremia said, "but they create good

food by how they move and how they graze."

From 2012 to 2017, researchers fenced off plots of grass along bison migration corridors and compared them to the grazed areas.

"The data showed that grasses heavily grazed by bison were more productive compared to enclosures where bison were not allowed to graze," said Matthew Kauffman, unit leader of the U.S. Geological Survey's Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Wyoming.

"The mowed-down forage had higher ratios of nitrogen to carbon, a standard measure of nutritional quality."

Trampling and nibbling by the bison kept the plants shorter and denser and forced the plants to keep growing, giving the bison a steady supply of fresh, nutritious grass. □

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| San Nicolas | 584 5000 |
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| Ambulancia | 911 |
| Fire Dept. | 115 |
| Red Cross | 582 2219 |

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In this Thursday Oct. 18, 2012 file photo, passengers board a London-bound EasyJet flight at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, Netherlands.

Associated Press

Doubts cast on easyJet plan to be net-zero emissions airline

By **DANICA KIRKA**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — European budget airline easyJet said Tuesday it will become the first major carrier to operate net-zero carbon flights, offsetting climate-warming emissions from the fuel used on every flight.

Climate experts, however, warn that such efforts are stopgap measures at best and that, with few options to reduce emissions from planes, the real focus should be on flying less.

EasyJet said it will offset the carbon "by investing in projects that include planting trees or protecting against deforestation."

That is estimated to cost about 25 million pounds (\$32 million) across the airline, which last year carried 88.5 million people on almost 560,000 flights.

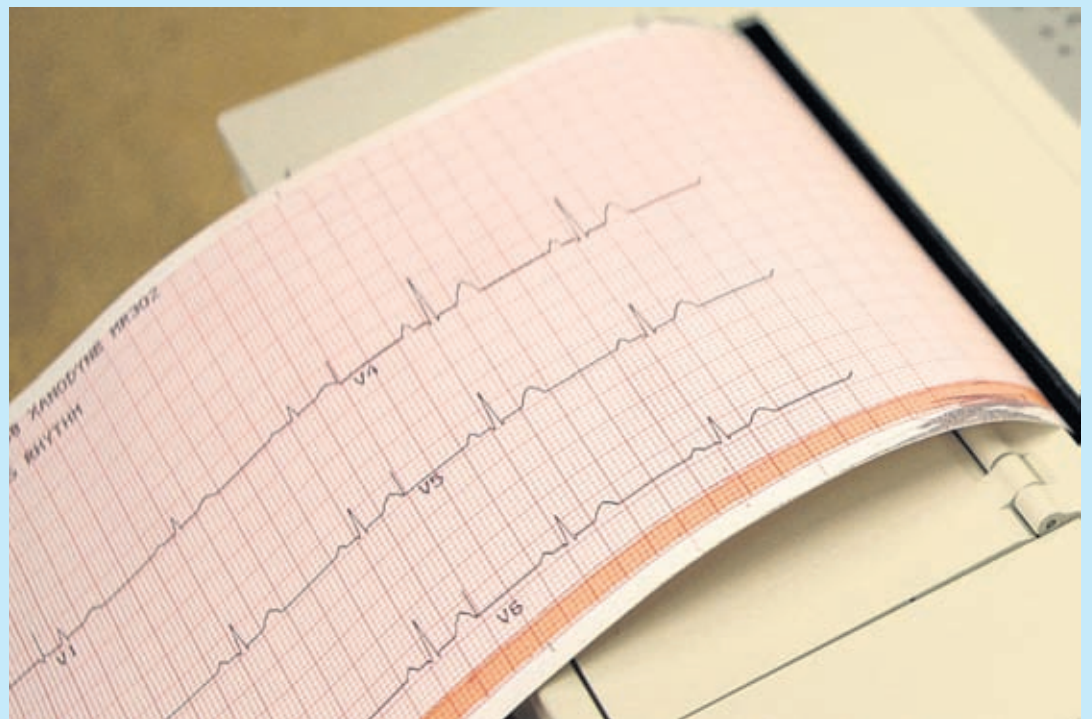
The airline described the carbon-offset effort as an "interim measure" while new technologies are being developed, including efforts to develop hybrid and electric planes. The measure is part of other initiatives to reduce emissions, such as using a single engine when taxiing.

"People have a choice in how they travel and people are now thinking about the potential carbon impact of different types of transport," said easyJet's CEO Johan Lundgren. "But many people still want to fly and if people choose to fly we want to be one of the best choices they can make."

"Aviation will have to reinvent itself as quickly as it can," Lundgren said.

Unlike the auto industry, which is increasingly focusing on purely electric cars, battery-powered travel is not technically feasible for planes in the foreseeable future. Rather, companies are trying to reduce the weight of jets and are testing new fuels, including biofuels.

Climate campaign groups like Greenpeace cast doubt on easyJet's plan, pointing to analysis that suggests offsetting schemes are not as effective as some make them out to be. The group suggests that to truly help the environment, authorities would have to impose a frequent flier tax to reduce the number of flights. □



This May 26, 2009 file photo shows a printout from an electrocardiogram machine in Missouri.
Associated Press

New, old drugs may offer fresh ways to fight heart disease

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**
AP Chief Medical Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Novel drugs may offer fresh ways to reduce heart risks beyond the usual medicines to lower cholesterol and blood pressure.

One new study found that heart attack survivors benefited from a medicine long used to treat gout. Several experimental drugs also showed early promise for interfering with heart-harmful genes without modifying the genes themselves — in one case, with treatment just twice a year. The research was featured at an American Heart Association conference ending Monday in Philadelphia.

"There's a lot of excitement" about the new gene-targeting medicines, especially because they seem to last so long, said Dr. Karol Watson, of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Scientists have been exploring gene therapy — altering DNA — to attack the root cause of many diseases. The new drugs essentially accomplish the same thing without tampering with genes, said the University of Pennsylvania's Dr. Daniel Rader, who has consulted for some makers of these drugs. The medicines work by silencing or blocking messages that genes give to cells to make proteins that can do harm, such as allowing cholesterol to accumulate. The first few of these "RNA-interference" drugs recently were approved for other conditions, and research is also targeting heart disease.

Farthest along is inclisiran, tested in 1,561 people with heart disease from clogged arteries who still had high LDL, the bad form of cholesterol, despite taking standard drugs. They were given a shot of inclisiran or a dummy drug when they joined the study, three months later and then every six months. The drug lowered LDL by 56% without serious side effects. More testing will show whether

it also lowers heart attacks and other problems, not just cholesterol. Inclisiran's maker, The Medicines Company, plans to seek federal approval for it later this year. Two other RNA interference drugs aim at a different target — triglycerides, another fat in the blood that's elevated in one quarter of Americans. Treatments include very low-fat diets, weight loss, fish oil and drugs, but doctors say more and better therapies are needed. Each RNA interference drug was tested at various doses in 40 people. A single shot lowered triglycerides by 30% to 67%, and the benefit lasted for at least four months. The studies were just intended to show safety; Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals is developing both drugs. Other research found new benefits from older drugs. AstraZeneca's Farxiga, originally developed to treat diabetes, also lowered the risk of heart problems in heart failure patients who did not have diabetes. Among 2,605 of such patients treated for 18 months, about 9% of those on Farxiga had worsening heart failure or heart-related death versus nearly 13% of those not given the drug. That worked out to a 27% lower risk, without extra serious side effects. Surprising benefits also were seen in a Canadian study of the decades-old gout drug. The anti-inflammatory drug colchicine — sold as Colcrys, Mitigare and in generic form — was tested in 4,745 people who recently had a heart attack. After about two years, colchicine users had a 23% lower risk of suffering a new heart attack, heart-related death, stroke, cardiac arrest or urgent need for an artery-opening procedure compared with a group given dummy pills. The benefit came mostly from preventing strokes and artery-opening procedures, and some heart doctors would rather have seen more difference in heart attacks and deaths. □

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Susan Choi, Sarah M. Broom win National Book Awards

By HILLEL ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Susan Choi's novel "Trust Exercise," in which a high school romance is spun out into a web of memories and perspectives, has won the National Book Award for fiction.

Sarah M. Broom's family memoir "The Yellow House" won in nonfiction and Martin W. Sandler's "1919 The Year That Changed America" for young people's literature. The winner for best translated book was Laszlo Krasznahorkai's "Baron Wenckheim's Homecoming," translated from Hungarian by Otilie Mulzet. In poetry, the winner was Arthur Sze's "Sight Lines."

The 70th annual National Book Awards were presented Wednesday night at a dinner benefit gala in downtown Manhattan, with winners each receiving \$10,000. Finalists were chosen by panels of authors, critics, booksellers and others in the literary community.

Publishers submitted more than 1,700 books for consideration.

Choi expressed gratitude not just for the award, but for the writing life, saying that writing and teaching



Susan Choi attends the 70th National Book Awards ceremony and benefit dinner at Cipriani Wall Street on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, in New York.

showed her that the word was "its own reward." Her other books include the Pulitzer Prize finalist "American Woman" and the PEN/Faulkner finalist "A Person of Interest."

Other speakers offered emotional tributes to loved ones and cited the written word as a source of healing, action and community in an unsettling world. Krasznahorkai praised his translator, Muzlet, and mar-

veled how the change from one language to another could make one "feel at home in the United States of America."

Broom singled out her mother for awe and gratitude, remembering how she raised 12 children and absorbed words everywhere from the grocery store to package labels, "always wolfing down words. Insatiable."

The prolific Sandler is an Em-

my-winning television writer who has written dozens of books, and vows to write 60 more. Sze called poetry an "essential language," helping us all to "slow down, see clearly, feel deeply" and understand what "truly matters."

Honorary awards were given to Oren Teicher, long-time head of the American Booksellers Association, and Edmund White, the pioneering gay writer. Each

celebrated the literary life in their own fashion.

Teicher, introduced warmly by author-bookseller Ann Patchett, spoke of his ever-renewing joy in helping bookstores commit a sacred, timeless "act of magic": placing the "right book in a reader's hands." Teicher will soon step down after a decade as CEO of the independent sellers trade group and quoted W.B. Yeats: "Think where man's glory most begins and ends; and say my glory was I had such friends."

White was introduced, mischievously, by the filmmaker-author John Waters, who celebrated his longtime friend with dirty jokes, entendres that mean one thing only and high praise for a man who "pissed off" both Gore Vidal and Susan Sontag.

White's medal is for "Distinguished Contribution to American Letters," but he was here to dish, joking that a writer's typical 8-hour "work" day was maybe a half hour of actual writing and otherwise a well-met schedule of gossip, "too many emails," cooking, pornography and drinking. "So many writers are alcoholic because they can get away with it," he said. □

As a novelty or a favorite, wooden toys can make great gifts

By LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Why buy wooden toys for children? Chances are good you know at least one parent who sings their praises for durability, sustainability or magical powers to boost creativity. If you don't, know that such toys can make great gifts.

Some ideas:

WOOD ON WHEELS

Cars, trucks, construction vehicles, emergency vehicles: Wooden toys that move are everywhere. Look no further than Melissa & Doug, the mass producer with a wide variety. The brand is available everywhere. The company makes construction vehicles for ages 3-6 that a child must stack together themselves before playing. \$19.99 each. On the handmade emporium Etsy.com, the shop TwentySevenUK sells a small wooden racing car that can be



This image released by Etsy shows wooden racing car that can be engraved with a child's name and a special date from Etsy seller TwentySevenUK.

engraved with a child's name and a special date. The seller offers free shipping to the U.S. Each car is \$43.05 and comes in white, yellow or green. Wooden train sets may not have wheels, but they do move. Check out the world of

Brio.

KITCHEN TOYS

Lots of wooden play kitchens and toy appliances are out there, but they've got a lot of plastic competition. Best to check with a parent first before taking on the big ticket. If you're not confident about gifting a full-size kitchen, go for a miniature set. Tender Leaf Toys, which makes a beautiful array of wooden toys, has a kitchen set intended for a dollhouse but perfectly suitable as a stand-alone gift. \$44.99. Tender Leaf makes lots of other cool kitchen toys, too, including a colorful espresso machine complete with coffee pods that drop and a milk jug. \$39.99.

TABLE GAMES

From tic-tac-toe to backgammon, lots of table games come in wood. Aerin makes a fancy Jenga, the classic balancing game, with blocks made of beech, stored in a cream or brown shagreen box

with brass detailing. \$1,100. It also sells a French Solitaire Set that includes a circular board crafted in Italy from ashwood, with 33 brass balls. \$2,750. A little too steep price-wise? Head to Amazon for a nice looking tic-tac-toe table set in wood for \$9.99, or a plywood 4 in a row game for \$22.

MISCELLANEOUS

Circle stackers for infants and toddlers are also plentiful, but one Etsy seller, SouthBendWorks, makes a lovely version in multicolored hardwood. \$39.99. Pottery Barn Kids carries a wooden pet set complete with a rabbit and its hutch, a dog and its doghouse, and a cat and its cat bed. There are also food bowls and food, including a carrot for the bunny. \$29. How about a throwback? A company called Novanatural.com sells a set of wooden stilts for ages 6 and up in oak hardwood. \$64. □

'21 Bridges' puts New York on lockdown

By **JAKE COYLE**
Associated Press

How excited James Brown would have been for "21 Bridges." Take you to bridge? How about 21 of them?

But I suspect even the Godfather of Soul would give an easy pass to Brian Kirk's "21 Bridges," with Chadwick Boseman (who played Brown in the biopic "Get on Up"). It's a just-good-enough New York

crime thriller, made with sufficient slinky shadows and leading-man charisma to do the trick. Even if its best trick is informing you, in case you ever wondered, how many bridges there are crossing into Manhattan.

The filmmakers, themselves, very nearly got it wrong. The movie's original title was "17 Bridges." Accounting errors are one thing, but misplacing the

Queensboro Bridge plus three more doesn't exactly engender confidence in the entire enterprise.

The story is simple, even if the arithmetic isn't. A drug heist goes awry leaving seven cops dead. Andre Davis (Boseman) is put in charge of the investigation, largely because of his shoot-first reputation. The son of a slain officer, Davis has shot eight people in nine years. He's known as "a trigger." And no in the force will mind if this case ends with bloodshed.

With the two suspects believed to be in Manhattan, thanks to an image of them running a light from an overhead camera, Davis orders the most audacious dragnet in the history of dragnets: He shuts down Manhattan for the night, stopping all trains and ferries, shuttering the tunnels and, yes, closing all 21 bridges. Now, Manhattan isn't actually a medieval castle that protects itself by moat. Believe it not, there are holes in this plan. For



This image released by STXfilms shows Chadwick Boseman in a scene from "21 Bridges," in theaters on Nov. 22.

Associated Press

starters, you can just about skip a stone across the Harlem River to the Bronx. Sealing off a sprawling metropolis like Manhattan would be such a mammoth undertaking that I wish "21 Bridges" dropped the plot and instead turned its focus to hysterical transit authority officials. It could have been one very entertaining traffic report.

But if the movie's central conceit — putting Manhattan on lockdown — is laughably implausible, Kirk (who has largely worked in television) nevertheless invests his movie with some

genre muscle and noirish atmosphere. The whole film takes place at night, as Davis and the narcotics officer he's paired with (Sienna Miller) hunt their shooters.

The film tells it both from the detectives' perspective and the criminals (a pair of veterans played by Stephan James and Taylor Kitsch), who stumbled into 300 kilograms of uncut cocaine when expecting a more small-time heist. That police were casually on the scene at the time adds to the mystery that unfolds while Davis steadily closes in. □

Michelle Obama signs 'Becoming' copies on book's anniversary

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michelle Obama marked one year since publication of her best-selling memoir at a book signing in the nation's capital Monday.

"It's so good to meet you," the former first lady told patrons as she signed copies of "Becoming" at a Washington, D.C., bookstore. More than 11.5 million copies of the memoir have been sold worldwide since it was first published in November 2018.

Mrs. Obama then embarked on a rock-star-style tour of more than 30 cities in the U.S., Canada and Europe to promote the book. Patrons did not seem to mind the hours-long wait outside in the November chill before they were ushered inside the bookstore. Behind a black curtain, Mrs. Obama sat at a table. The shelves behind her were stacked with copies of "Be-



Former first lady Michelle Obama greets people as they buy signed copies of her book, "Becoming," Monday Nov. 18, 2019, at Politics and Prose Bookstore in Washington.

Associated Press

coming," along with an accompanying journal being released Tuesday.

"She looks so much younger than I thought," one man was overheard saying as he waited in line.

"She looks beautiful," exclaimed a woman. "Oh my gosh. Oh my gosh," gushed another woman in line.

Rosalind Myers, an attorney from Rockville, Mary-

land, told those still waiting outside as she left the store that "it's worth the wait."

Myers said she had missed two previous opportunities to see Mrs. Obama at her book events. But on Monday, Myers was 26th in line. "She took the time to look me in the eye, to shake my hand," Myers said. "She's a beautiful woman inside and out." □

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CHADWICK BOSEMAN | J.K. SIMMONS

21 BRIDGES

PH MON-THU 6:00 | 8:20

FRI 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40

SAT 3:40 | 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40

SUN 3:40 | 6:00 | 8:20

KRITI KHARBANDA | JOHN ABRAHAM

RAGDOLL

PBP MON-SUN 8:50

KRISTEN STEWART | NAOMI SCOTT

CHARLES ANGELS

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU & SUN 8:30

FRI-SAT SAT 8:30 | 11:10

CHRISTIAN BALE | MATT DAMON

FORD v FERRARI

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 7:50

SAT-SUN 4:35 | 7:50

EMILIA CLARKE | HENRY GOLDING

Last Christmas

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 6:45

SAT-SUN 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:45

JOHN CENA | KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY

PLAYING WITH FIRE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 6:10

SAT-SUN 3:50 | 6:10

LINDA HAMILTON | ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

TERMINATOR DARK FATE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-SUN 9:10

ANGELINA JOLIE | ELLE FANNING

MALEFICENT

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 3:40 | 6:10

SAT-SUN 1:10 | 3:40 | 6:10

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Music becomes medicine as singer Joe Henry battles cancer

By STEVEN WINE

Associated Press

Singer-songwriter Joe Henry was still absorbing the shock of confronting his life-threatening illness when he climbed into bed early one evening with paper and pen, his instruments for therapy.

He then wrote a song, his first since being told he had stage 4 prostate cancer. He knew composing would help him heal.

"The way I process anything significant is by writing," said Henry. "I said, 'I feel like I'm going to have to write my way through this.'" From the specter of death, an album was born. "I came here for the funeral of all sorrow," went the first line of that first song, "In Time for Tomorrow." The tune's remaining lyrics came quickly.

"I wrote it literally as fast as I could have written it down had I been taking dictation," Henry said.

Music became medicine, and soon Henry had enough material for his 15th solo studio album, "The Gospel According to Water," where he reflects on the love of life, what comes next and the role spiritual solace can play when facing our mortality.

"The songs tumbled out one after the other, much faster than I have ever experienced a body of songs arrive," he said.

The Los Angeles-based Henry, 58, isn't quite as well-known as his sister-in-law, Madonna. He enjoys the sort of small, devoted



This Nov. 8, 2019 photo shows musician Joe Henry posing for a portrait at his home in Pasadena, Calif. to promote his new album "The Gospel According To Water."

following that believes it shares a great secret, and he's the kind of musician who's popular with musicians.

John Prine, Bonnie Raitt and Jackson Browne are among those to hail "The Gospel According to Water."

"I love Joe Henry," tweeted Prine, himself a cancer survivor. "This is an important record."

During a 45-minute conversation to discuss "Gospel," Henry referenced The Band, Charlie Parker, Frank Sinatra, Robert Johnson, Woody Guthrie, Duke Ellington and Marvin Gaye. His music has long been built on such disparate, impeccable influences, and "Gospel" is Henry's latest eloquent argument for albums, that endangered

species, as art.

Happily, his own health outlook is much improved. The record will be released Friday, the first anniversary of his diagnosis.

Henry was initially told he likely had three to seven months to live, but he's now in remission while continuing treatment. His oncologist at UCLA said his case is not terminal, but a matter of chronic disease management.

Henry, a three-time Grammy winner as a producer, recently decided he was ready to resume taking on projects in that role. He also plans to tour in support of his new album. "I'm doing really, really well," he said. "It was many months, I would say, before I really found myself in my true secret heart picturing a sig-

nificant future. For that I'm grateful. It was really hard to live when I wasn't sure I believed in the possibility of my healing."

For "Gospel," Henry went into the studio in June planning to record demos with several other musicians, including his son, Levon, who has played woodwinds on his dad's albums for the past decade.

"There wasn't any weightiness around the session," Levon said. "It was sort of like him getting back in the game and returning to the things that are important. The music was sort of like opposing the weightiness of the moment."

There's joy particularly in Henry's acoustic guitar playing, which is more prominent than usual, and the album might be his

most melodic. Humor shines through — one of the best songs is titled "General Tzu Names the Planets for His Children."

Those involved quickly realized the session was producing more than mere demo material. Most of the album was finished in two days.

"It was a pretty amazing session," said keyboardist Patrick Warren, who has played with Henry for more than a decade. "I knew we were onto something. There was something about his voice and his guitar playing that I had never heard before."

Henry said he doesn't want his audience to think of "Gospel" as his "cancer album," because the songs are about much more than that. And mortality is not a new topic for him.

"I've been writing about it for decades," he said. "It's not new for me to be pondering such. At the same time, there has been a wild shift in my thinking. I feel like somebody who has been abstractly writing about the moon, and then found himself standing on top of it."

The 13 songs are sung by a singular character. Henry said it's not him, even on the final tune "Choir Boy," which ends each verse with the entreaty, "Pray for me." "It's more like, 'Stand with me in community. See me. Don't leave me alone. I need you to be aligned with what I'm experiencing, and I need to feel your closeness,'" Henry said. "It's the character." □

B.B. King Museum expanding to add space for his vehicles

Associated Press

INDIANOLA, Miss. (AP) —

Work is starting on a \$2.5 million expansion of a Mississippi Delta museum dedicated to a native son who became a blues legend.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Tuesday for new space at the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center in Indianola. The museum opened in 2008 near the area where King grew up. The 15-time Grammy winner died in

2015 and is buried on the museum grounds.

The 4,500-square-foot (418-square-meter) addition will house King's tour bus and two of his vehicles, a Rolls Royce Silver Shadow and a custom painted Chevy El Camino.

The museum says in a news release that other artifacts acquired since his death are being preserved and cataloged, including a guitar given to King by guitarist and inventor Les Paul. □



In this Sept. 11, 2009 photograph, interactive displays align the walls of the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center in Indianola, Miss.

Associated Press

Sculptor crafting first women's statue for Central Park

By **SUSAN HAIGH**
JOSEPH FREDERICK
Associated Press

RIDGEFIELD, Conn. (AP) —

A sculptor known for trying to redress history through her art is creating the first statue of real-life women for New York's Central Park, where the only females so honored until now have been fictional characters. Meredith Bergmann's vision for the sculpture, chosen from 91 submissions, features three women's rights pioneers — Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Sojourner Truth. While honoring their specific efforts on behalf of women's suffrage, women's civil rights and the abolition of slavery, Bergmann hopes her latest work will also make a statement about the need to recognize the contributions of women.

"This monument has a very focused message," she said in an interview at her studio in Ridgefield, Connecticut. "The fact of the monument itself, that it exists at all, that it will be where it is, is the message."

Of the 23 statues of historical figures in the 840-acre, 166-year-old public park, none honors actual women. There are statues of three female fictional characters: Alice in Wonderland, Mother Goose and William Shakespeare's Juliet, who appears with Romeo.

There had been a moratorium on erecting any new statues in Central Park. But in 2014, a volunteer, non-profit group called Monumental Women, made up of women's rights advocates, historians and com-



In this Nov. 4, 2019, still image from video, sculptor Meredith Bergmann works on the first women's statue that will be installed in New York's Central Park, in her studio in Ridgefield, Conn.

Associated Press

munity leaders, set out to break what they've called the "bronze ceiling" and develop a statue depicting real women. With the help of the Girl Scouts, private foundations and others, they raised \$1.5 million in private funding for the 14-foot-tall monument, to be located on the park's Literary Walk. It's scheduled to be unveiled on Aug. 26, 2020, marking the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which enshrined the right for women to vote.

"It's fitting that the first statue of real women in Central Park depicts three New York women who dedicated their lives to fighting for women's rights," said Pam Elam, president of Monumental Women, in a written statement last month after the project received approval from a city commission.

"This statue conveys the power of women working together to bring about revolutionary change in our society. It invites people to reflect not just on these women and their work for equality and justice, but on all the monumental women who came before us." Midway into the massive and multi-faceted project, Bergmann and her assistants have nearly finished sculpting from foam and clay an imagined scene of the three women having a conversation at a table. Truth is speaking, Anthony is organizing and Stanton is writing, which Bergman describes as the three essential elements of activism. The current design is the result of a long process that involved various changes, including the late addition of Sojourner Truth, an African-American abolitionist and women's rights activist who was born into slavery

but escaped to freedom in 1826. It originally included Anthony, a writer, lecturer and abolitionist who fought for the rights of women to vote and own property; Stanton, another leading figure in the women's voting rights movement, and an abolitionist and author; and a scroll with a list of 17 other women involved in the women's movement from 1848 to 1920. Bergmann dove deeply into the worlds and histories of all three women and their senses of mission, similar to what the artist has done with her other works of public art. One such work, the Boston Women's Memorial, features statues portraying Abigail Adams, the wife and mother of two U.S. presidents and a women's rights advocate; abolitionist and suffragist Lucy Stone; and Phillis Wheatley, a former slave who became a literary prodigy.

Meanwhile, work is nearly complete for the FDR Hope Memorial on Roosevelt Island in Manhattan, which features two statues Bergmann created of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a wheelchair and a young girl with crutches, greeting one another. The memorial is supposed to be an inspiration to people struggling with all forms of disability, in a location once called Welfare Island — a stretch of land with a long past that included a prison and a smallpox hospital.

For the Central Park project, Bergmann studied every photo and description she could find, taking great pains, for example, to reflect a "hint of a smile" on the face of Truth, known to have a good sense of humor. While the three activists are not depicted in the monument at any known meeting, Bergmann said it's plausible they could have met together. She noted how Anthony and Stanton, who worked together and formed the National Woman Suffrage Association, would have known Truth through abolition and women's rights circles, and how Truth was a guest at Stanton's home in the 1860s. Stanton's daughter would read newspapers aloud to Truth, who was illiterate.

Bergmann has also focused on other fine details, such as the women's clothing. She noted that all three "used their outfits to calm people, to show that they were not threatening propriety, but also that they were women who valued themselves."

Once the sculpting work is done, likely in the coming weeks, Bergmann said molds will be taken and they will eventually be cast in bronze at a foundry in New York.

Detailed work will need to be performed, such as making sure the women's heads are at the right tilt and the ends of the granite base are curved perfectly. It has become a labor of love for Bergmann, albeit a challenging one. □



In this Nov. 4, 2019, still image from video, sculptor Meredith Bergmann works on the first women's statue that will be installed in New York's Central Park, in her studio in Ridgefield, Conn.

Associated Press



This Nov. 4, 2019, still image from video shows a portion of the first women's statue that will be installed in New York's Central Park, as it is being created by sculptor Meredith Bergmann in her studio in Ridgefield, Conn.

Associated Press